a Stackpole gun book

W. H. B. SMITH

WALTHER PISTOLS AND RIFLES

REVISED & ENLARGED

SMITH WALTHER PISTOLS AND RIFLES

STACKPOLE

WALTHER PISTOLS AND RIFLES

CARL WALTHER
1860—1915

Pistols and Rifles

By

W. H. B. SMITH

Author of

Small Arms of the World

Book of Pistols and Revolvers

Book of Rifles

Mannlicher Rifles and Pistols

Mauser Rifles and Pistols

Gas, Air, and Spring Guns

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Publisher's Foreword

As the author, the late W. H. B. Smith, that world famous yet mysterious firearms expert once said, the German P-38 service pistol was one of the most prized souvenirs brought home by veterans of the European-African campaigns of World War II.

Walther handgun fans, collectors, and owners and prospective owners of Walther pistols will find this new and much enlarged edition of W. H. B. Smith's book of special interest. It provides a wider collection than ever before of useful and interesting data, including photographs, concerning the P-38 and the many other handguns and shoulder weapons produced by the Walther firm.

Much information concerning the military and target rifles made by Walther has been added as well as material on some of the lesser known Walther products such as the Walther air pistol and the .22 blank cartridge pistol which may be used with rockets for signaling.

Walther's big game and varmint hunting rifles are also covered.

Carl Walther, the firearms designer who founded *Carl Walther Waffenfabriken,* was born in 1860. He died in 1915, little knowing that the Walther genius in design and production of weapons would survive two cycles of world peace and conflict yet flourish as never before. Though features of Walther pistol design are now more widely imitated than ever by other manufacturers, the sterling quality of Walther-supervised manufacturing today readily accounts for the increased demand for these pistols in the United States. To supply the demand the Walther post-war factory at Ulm-on-the-Danube in West Germany is being expanded to almost double its former capacity.

We acknowledge our special thanks to Mr. Ray Bearse of Punta Gorda, Florida, for most of the new material in this

edition, secured after time-consuming research in both the United States and in Germany.

Appreciation is also expressed to Mr. Joseph E. Smith of Vienna, Virginia, for data on certain Walther models and on the Walther plant; to Colonel G. B. Jarrett, Curator of the Ordnance Museum at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, who visited the Walther plant during the American occupation in 1945; to *Guns* magazine for permission to quote from the article in their January 1961 issue called "The Story of the Walther P-38," by Marvin Lessen; to Mr. Sidney Aberman, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for data and photos of certain Walther models; to Mr. Richard Winter, executive of Interarmco, Alexandria, Virginia, and to Mr. Tom Nelson, arms historian of the same firm, both of whom provided various photos and samples of pistols; to Mr. Heinrich Greider of Kensington, Maryland, for information regarding target pistols; to Mr. C. Leininger, President, Stoeger Arms Company, and publisher of the *Shooter's Bible,* for data on pre-World War II Walthers; to Mr. C. Harold Williamson, Cambridge, Maryland, owner of a rare KPK Walther; to Mr. Roger Marsh, firearms historian and frequent author of articles in the *American Rifleman* who provided helpful data; to Mr. Harry Curran, Punta Gorda, Florida, for assistance; and to Mrs. Editha Bearse for translation of numerous German documents and otherwise assisting with research.

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"There is not a Man born in America that does not Understand the Use of Fire arms & that well . . . it is Almost the First thing they Purchase & take to all the New Settlements & in the Cities you can scarcely find a Lad of 12 years old that does not go a Gunning."

Letter, dated September 14, 1774, from John Thurman to Sargent Chambers & Co., probably of London.

Chapter 1

The Walther Story

THE young American naval lieutenant strolling through an occupied Italian town in 1943 hit the cobblestones immediately after a shot slammed out of a dark alley. As he reported afterwards, he fell "clutching and cocking a Walther P-38. I had bought it for a carton of cigarettes from a Scot paratrooper who had killed a German paratroop lieutenant at Termoli and who had liberated his side arm. Some more shots spurted from the alley and I shot back at the shots, moving the P-38 gently from left to right and shooting out the full magazine. No more shots came from the alley. There was nothing in the alley but a dead co-belligerent with a lot of new navels. We used to lose a lot of allies in those days, before we disarmed the co-belligerents."

Lieutenant Robert C. Ruark, naval officer, newspaperman, and big game hunter, was but one of thousands of Americans and British Tommies who replaced their issue side arms with a P-38, a PP, or a PPK—all products of that versatile German firearms designer Fritz Walther.

Every World War II veteran of the North African, Italian, and Western European campaigns is familiar with the German P-38 service pistol. These pistols, together with the smaller Walther police models (PP and PPK), the Walther Models 8 and 9, and the Lugers, were the most prized souvenirs of World War II.

The P-38, the side arm most used in the German Army during World War II and currently the standard side arm of the West German *Bundeswehr,* became such a popular pistol with U. S. troops that during the Battle of the Bulge the German High Command is said to have ordered that any American soldier captured with a P-38 in his possession was to be shot.

While not all P-38's are Walthers (vast numbers were made by Mauser late in the war), the original pistol was designed and manufactured at the huge Walther arms plant at Zella-Mehlis, Thuringia, Germany.

It is interesting to speculate on the whereabouts of the 375,000 Walther pistols which were reportedly found in the Walther plant in Zella-Mehlis when the American Army took over in April 1945. It was a gun collector's holiday for the liberators.

The Walther pistol story begins more than 250 years ago when Matthais Conrad Pistor the chief armorer and gunsmith of the Kassel Arsenal, and an ancestor of the present Walther clan, designed and supervised the manufacture of military and sporting arms. Pistor's ability secured him the right to organize his own gun-making establishment.

Pistor's pistol plant (which also made other arms) was located near Schmalkalden in the Province of Thuringia. Pistols and poets don't usually mix but Johann Wolfgang von Goethe—Germany's greatest poet—in a letter dated September 12, 1780 wrote to Charlotte von Stein that he and the Duke Carl August of Weimar had visited Pistor's pistol plant that month.

A Walther report noted "Old documentary evidence makes it abundantly manifest that valuable consignments of hunting rifles were supplied to the great majority of European countries already during the 18th Century, and that in the course of the same era very large numbers of Walther weapons were also shipped to the United States, to Australia, and to India."

The present Walther establishment was founded in 1886 in the twin cities of Zella-Mehlis, Thuringia, near the site of "pater" Pistor's pistol plant.

The region including Zella-Mehlis and nearby Suhl, home of the great Sauer works, was the long-time center of German arms manufacture. Raw materials essential to the manufacture of firearms were found in the area. The steel industry was operating here as early as 1440 A. D. Copper ores were smelted at Lubenbach near Zella while first-rate red iron ore was mined at Zella and nearby Domberg. The vast Thuringian forests provided ex-

cellent wood for pike shafts and rifle and pistol stocks. The quantity and quality of these basic materials, coupled with the skills and energy of the population, through the years developed a great capacity to produce arms and armor.

An increasing demand for weapons and body armor gave impetus to the Zella-Mehlis arms industry. Count Georg Ernst von Henneberg of Suhl gave his approval to the organization of a gunsmiths' guild in 1563, for the development of guns, swords, and body shields. Thirty years later a similar organization was created in Mehlis. A barrelsmiths' guild was organized in 1605. Some of the earliest known matchlocks and wheellock rifles were manufactured in Zella-Mehlis.

Some of the finest examples of stock and barrel carving extant —there are superb examples in New York's Metropolitan Museum—were produced by these South German craftsmen and artists.

By 1670 this area was manufacturing flintlocks. It was German gunsmiths, many of whom learned their trade and art in the Zella-Mehlis area, who brought their know-how to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania which eventually became the leading production center of flintlock rifles. The so-called Kentucky rifles, actually made in Pennsylvania, carried good men like Daniel Boone and renegades like Simon ("Dirty") Girty across the mountains into Kain-Tu-Kee—the "Dark and Bloody Ground."

The gun makers in Zella-Mehlis continued to progress. Barrel manufacture had developed from hand hammering to crude but successful drawing. The weapons of this period included attempts at breechloaders, which were generally unsuccessful because the breech could not be properly sealed with the type of ammunition then in use. And long before the young American, Samuel Colt, sailed the high seas, in Thuringia true revolving arms, pistols and rifles, were being developed, notably the type of *drillinge* (revolver) known as the *Wender* (turner). This area, then, was advanced enough in the art of making multi-shot weapons that they anticipated the revolver as we know it today—only the lack of suitable ammunition and of precision measuring devices de-

layed the manufacture of rapid-fire arms until the middle of the 19th Century.

The Chronicles of Zella from 1791 to 1794 record well over 14,000 rifle barrels manufactured or proofed there; while from 1795 to 1811, 126,000 rifle and musket barrels were manufactured. In addition to these, large quantities of hunting arms and pistols were also turned out. It is further recorded in these *Chronicles* that at Zella there were two barrel hammers, four barrelsmith shops, one barrel rifler, 79 master barrelsmiths, nine journeymen and three apprentices, two engravers, 25 stock makers, two bayonet smiths and 10 dealers in firearms.

In Mehlis there was a large iron smelter with an iron hammer, several riflers, 106 gunsmiths, one master engraver, one file maker and numerous other craftsmen in iron and steel.

This area manufactured arms widely used in the French Revolution, and when the military market subsided, turned to the development of sporting firearms and pistols. From this period the Zella-Mehlis district marks its rise as an important producer of precision weapons. Out of this historical reservoir of firearms research and manufacture evolved the scores of small shops and groups who were to play a significant part in the arming of future German aggressions, as well as in the manufacture of many of the finest target, sporting, and police weapons ever produced.

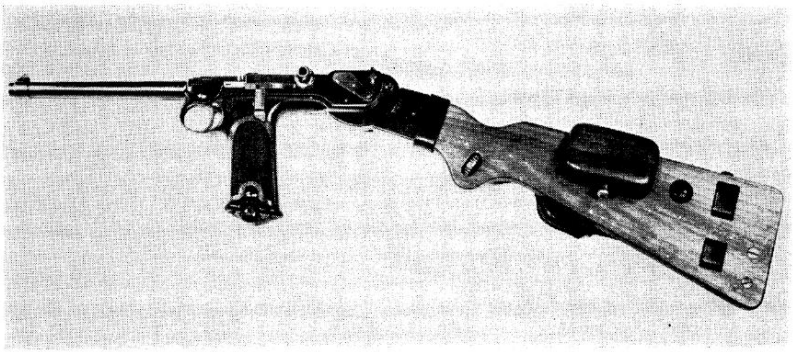
Enter Carl Walther

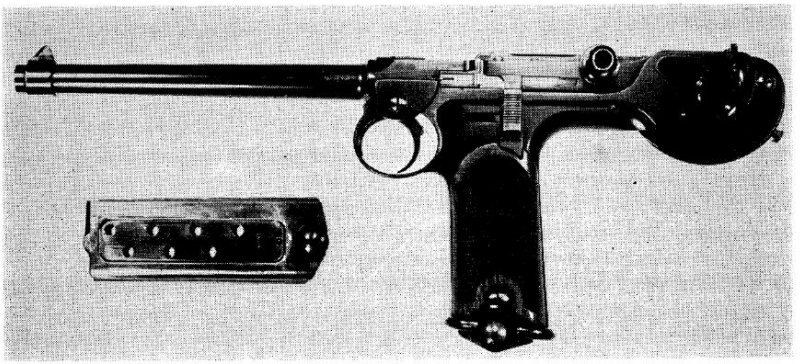
Carl Walther founded one of these small businesses in 1886. It was strictly a family concern in its inception. Carl Walther with his eldest son Fritz designed and manufactured the first successful German pocket pistol in 6.35mm (.25 Colt Automatic) caliber. From this small beginning the firm of Walther rose through two wars to one of the dominant positions in world design and trade in quality firearms. Their target pistols and small-bore rifles achieved international fame and won scores of championship target matches.

With the ending of World War II the nuclear bomb has altered the face of war; but the need for military, hunting, and

target arms will still be a factor in industry and trade. The past history of Zella-Mehlis would indicate a resurgence of arms manufacture in the not too distant future, a resurgence which has always started with the manufacture of tools for peace-time use but which has invariably ended in the manufacture of weapons of war. Will the new era change the course of Zella-Mehlis history? Only time will tell.

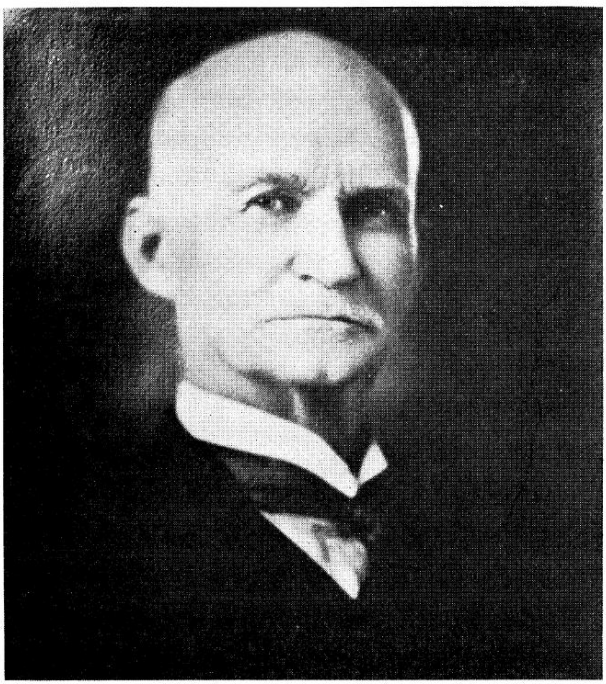
In the latter part of the 19th Century, German-born Hugo Borchardt came to America and served as superintendent of the Colt plant. He later designed sixguns for Winchester; he also designed the famed Sharps-Borchardt. During the early 1890's he designed an automatic pistol which received favorable comment at U.S. Ordnance trials in Newport, R. I., in 1894. The





TWO VIEWS OF THE 7.65mm BORCHARDT, MODEL 1893.
Designed by German-born Connecticut resident Hugo Borchardt, this was the first successful commercial auto pistol. It later developed into the Luger.

Navy, however, did not pursue the development. Borchardt returned to his fatherland; there, in cooperation with Georg Leuger, engineer with the arms company Ludwig Loewe of Berlin; he designed a very successful pistol originally manufactured on a wide scale as the Borchardt-Leuger. The name was



JOHN MOSES BROWNING (1855-1926).
His .25 ACP vest-pocket pistol made by *Fabrique Nationale* was so successful that Walther and his son Fritz decided to enter the pocket pistol business.

presently shortened to "Luger"—the name widely accepted even before World War I. The Luger, adopted by the German Army in 1908 as its official side arm, was replaced in the army by Fritz Walther's P-38 in 1938.

Carl Walther noted the growing popularity of the small .25 caliber "vest-pocket" type pistol. *Fabrique Nationale* was making and selling, like the proverbial hotcakes, John Browning's Model

Left: BROWNING'S .25 ACP PISTOL. FN has been making it since 1908.

Right THE COLT .25 ACP. 500,000 were manufactured between 1910 and 1946.

1905 pocket pistol. FN commenced manufacture of this pistol in 1905 and sold 100,000 in five years. Colt began manufacture of the same pistol in 1909 and before manufacture was discontinued in 1946 more than 1,000,000 had been produced by the two companies. FN still manufactures the "Baby Browning."

The derringer, once a favorite pocket pistol of gamblers, peace officers, ladies of the night, and other folk in need of a small, easily concealable pocket pistol, was rapidly being supplanted by the .25 caliber pistol designed by John Browning and manufactured by FN. Germans were buying it, too, and the Walther family also wanted a slice of this market.

The Model 1, caliber .25 ACP Walther was marketed in 1908. (Note: "ACP" is an abbreviation for "Automatic Colt Pistol.") It was the first of six caliber .25 ACP Walther pistols, the most recent of which is the Model TP, scheduled for 1962.*

In 1910 Walther manufactured its first .32 ACP caliber pistol. This was followed the same year by another .32 ACP caliber pistol, the first Walther-designed police pistol. Continental law enforcement agencies prefer the autoloading pistol to the sixgun favored by United States lawmen. The pistols favored by Continental police are, surprisingly enough, usually made in what we consider to be ineffectual pocket pistol calibers, the .32 ACP

*Photo page 48.

known in Europe as the 7.65mm Browning, and the .380 ACP known on the Continent as the 9mm Browning Short or 9mm Kurz (Short).

The Walther Model 5, .25 ACP caliber, was introduced in 1913. This was an improved version of the 1909 Model 2.

Walther and World War I

German arms factories were unable to supply the ever-increasing demand for the Luger (or the P-08—*Pistole* 1908, from the year of its adoption—as the Luger was known). In 1915 the Army adopted the Model 6 Walther in caliber 9mm Parabellum (9mm Luger) as a substitute standard. This was the first Walther pistol made in what was to become the world's most popular military pistol caliber.

German officers discovered that the tiny .25 ACP pistols made a dandy "hide out" or second gun to carry concealed for possible use in the event of capture. Many an Allied soldier died or was wounded from the tiny .25 slugs fired from a captured German officer's Walther .25 auto pistol.

Walther Between Wars

Walther arms production halted November 11, 1918. But in less than one year, the firm was engaged in manufacturing optical parts. German industry, at the end of World War I, was intact. Walther, less than 18 months after the Armistice, resumed the manufacture of arms under a permit from the League of Nations.

The Treaty of Versailles had one fundamental purpose—permanent destruction of the German war machine. "Five times in a hundred years—in 1814, 1815, 1870, 1914, and 1918—had the towers of Notre Dame seen the flash of Prussian guns and heard the thunder of their cannonade."

The Allies, however, allowed the Germans to maintain a standing army of 100,000 men and officers. Conscription was not permitted. The Navy was limited to a few ships not to exceed 10,000 tons. An Air Force was *verboten*. The manufacture of rifles and pistols of military caliber was highly restricted.

The 100,000 man army was probably permitted because the Allies feared a German Communist revolution and they considered the 100,000 soldiers as a kind of national police force comparable to the *gendarmes* of France.

Walther's first post-war pistol was the Model 8, caliber .25 ACP, introduced in 1920; manufacture was continued almost until the day the Yank tanks came to Zella-Mehlis. More than 200,000 Model 8's had been made when Walther celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1936.

The Model 9, caliber .25 ACP, pocket pistol, marketed in 1921, was Walther's last small pocket pistol design until the Model TP was brought out in 1962.

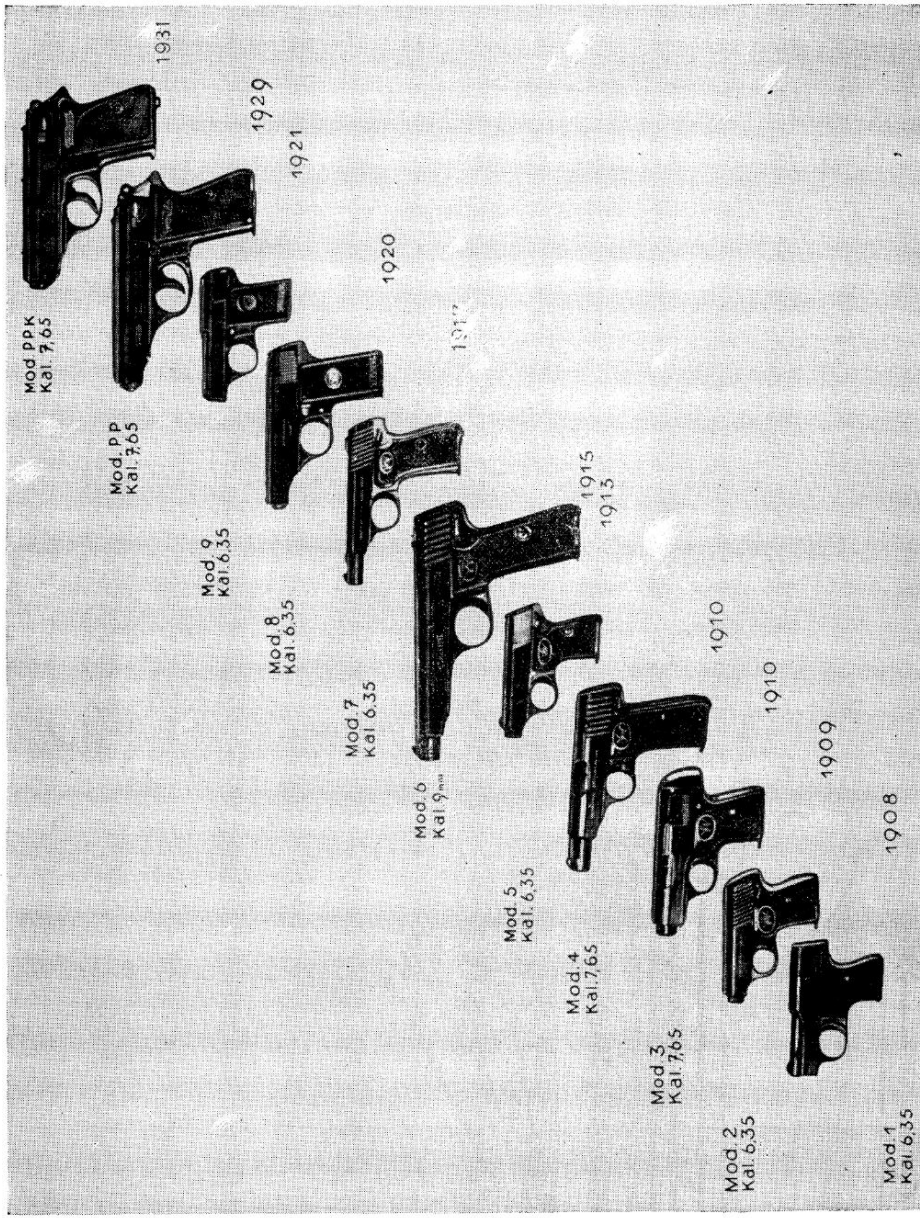
In the two decades between World Wars I and II, Walther produced sporting rifles, including autoloading and target type .22 rifles, double-barrel scatter guns, and an autoloading shotgun. There were no startling innovations in any of these weapons. They were, however, all manufactured to Walther's very high standards of craftsmanship and finish.

Walther's first major design contribution came in 1929 when designer Fritz Walther brought out the world's first commercially successful double-action automatic pistol. The PP *(Polizei Pistole)* made in caliber .32 ACP was later offered in .380 ACP and in a .22 Long Rifle version intended for training purposes. A very few .25 ACP Model PP's were made.

The double-action feature caught on with many European law enforcement agencies. The PP was later to become the favorite side arm of the Brown Shirts (S.A.), Black Shirts (S.S.), the *Gestapo,* and *Wehrmacht* officers.

Two years later a smaller version, lighter in weight, shorter, and with a reduced capacity magazine (PPK-*Polizei Pistole Kriminal*) was produced. The PP was intended primarily as a belt-holster weapon, while the PPK was designed for plain-clothes men.

Walther in 1932 introduced a hammerless .22 target pistol which was the "Number One" target arm for German marksmen who entered the Olympics in Los Angeles. By today's standards,



WALTHER'S PRODUCTION PISTOLS, 1908-1931.

this target .22 was a rather crude affair; but when compared with other .22 target handguns of the era, one gains a much more favorable impression.

When the 1936 Olympics were held in Berlin German marksmen commanded attention with their sweeping victories won with Walther's new Olympic Model .22. This is still the standard pistol among Olympic and international marksmen, including World Champion Master Sergeant Joe Benner, U. S. Army.

Aging Marshal Paul von Hindenburg, President of the German Republic, wearily yielded to increasing political and military pressures and on January 30, 1933 named native Austrian Adolf Hitler as *Reichschancellor* of the future *Third Reich.* Hitler, until his ascension to the chancellorship, had in the fashion of Mussolini used storm troops (Brown Shirts) in his march to power. These brawlers of the *bierstuben* and the streets were in effect the private army of the future fuehrer. Officially, they were not armed, but many carried pocket Mausers, Sauers, and Walthers.

As these storm troops (called *Sturm Abteilung,* or S. A.) grew from 400,000 in January 1933 to 3,000,000 in 1934, so did the demand for weapons. Even Hitler was alarmed at the rapidly growing S. A. The storm troopers were commanded by Ernst Roehm. Hitler had his own "Praetorian Guard," the elite *Schutzstaffel* or S. S., a hard core of disciplined troopers. All made good business for the arms merchants.

The great DWM *(Deutsche Waffen Munitionsfabriken),* until Hitler scrapped the Versailles Treaty and ignored the Locarno Pact, produced the Luger but not in the military 9mm Parabellum caliber. The Luger was made for use at home and abroad in caliber 7.65mm. A few firearms experts noted that the 7.65mm Luger could be readily converted to 9mm Parabellum by merely switching barrel and magazine. In the event of a sudden large demand for 9mm Luger the 7.65mm barrels could be rechambered and rebored to 9mm and the magazine could be readily altered.

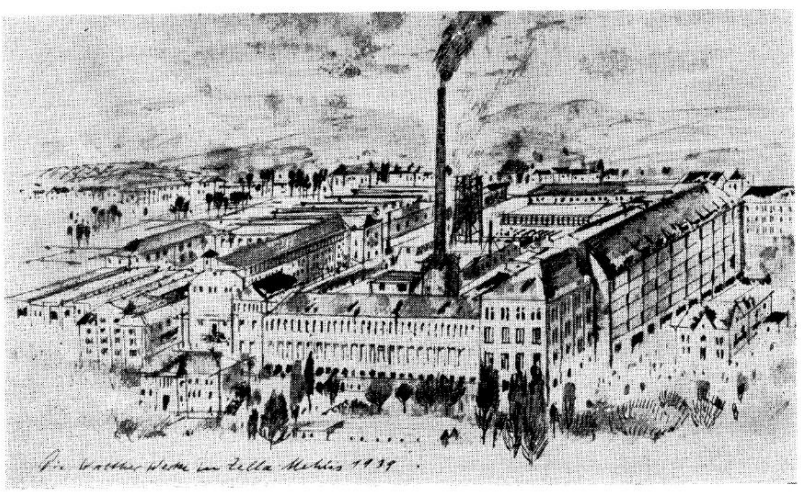
Walther's exact contribution to this underground program will

never be known. Walther records up to 1945 were destroyed by the occupying American forces and the Walthers, including Fritz and his old employees, aren't talking. There are, however, a few specimens extant of an MP Model Walther. This is an oversized PP chambered for the 9mm Parabellum cartridge. The MP, never a production model, was apparently made during the late 1920's or early 1930's. A stronger locked breech type action was required for the 9mm Parabellum cartridge.

In 1936 Walther celebrated its 50th anniversary—and 28 years of pistol making—by manufacturing its 1,000,000th pistol. During the next nine years the plant manufactured about 1,500,000 pistols. One out of every five Walther pistols manufactured between 1921 and 1936 was a caliber .25 ACP Model 8.

German ordnance was searching for a handgun to replace the Luger. This latter weapon, a superb firearm except for an atrocious trigger pull, had too many parts and was too complicated for easy manufacture. The military plans of the New Order called for simplicity of design and manufacture.

The first major bid by Carl Walther *Waffenfabrik* for a successor to the Luger came in 1937 with the introduction of the



WALTHER FACTORY AT ZELLA-MEHLIS, 1939.
(Artist's Drawing)

HP (*Heeres Pistole;* i.e., service pistol). This pistol, made in limited quantities, is probably the finest auto pistol ever produced by Walther or anybody else. It was an exposed hammer model pistol chambered for the 9mm Parabellum cartridge and embodied the double-action feature of the PP and PPK.

The German Ordnance Board accepted the HP but insisted on some minor modifications which would make for greater ease of manufacture and assembly. The board adopted the modified HP in 1938 and the accepted modification was officially designated as the "P-38," the number deriving from the year. The Swedish government adopted the P-38 in 1939 but called it the P-39 for the year of its adoption.

Meanwhile Fritz Walther designed a concealed hammer version of the HP known as the *Armeepistole*. Production was very limited and stopped entirely after Germany entered the war.

Walther, Wehrmacht, and World War II

German ordnance realized that the Walther plant with its 3,000 workers could not produce a sufficient number of P-38's, PP's, and PPK's. The Mauser *Werke* was given a large contract for P-38 production. Walther-designed weapons made by Mauser at Oberndorf carry the letters "byf" on the left side of the slide. The Walther code was "ac."

An estimated 1,000,000 model P-38's were manufactured during World War II. Minor changes were made in the firing pin to facilitate production. Wartime P-38's lack the fine walnut hand-checkered grips, the high blue finish, and other niceties of Walther's pre-war weapons. The outside finish was rough and usually tool marks can be seen by the naked eye. However, these pistols are just as serviceable as the pre-war weapons.

Germany for the past 75 years has generally been ahead of most other nations in firearms development. There have been numerous instances of weapons designed by nationals of other countries which were turned down, only to be accepted by the Germans. This is particularly true of American inventors like Sir Hiram Maxim. The U. S. Army did not accept Maxim's

UNUSUAL WALTHER PISTOL.

This remarkable late World War II stamped pistol designed by Walther was intended for ultra-low cost production but such did not get underway before the war ended.

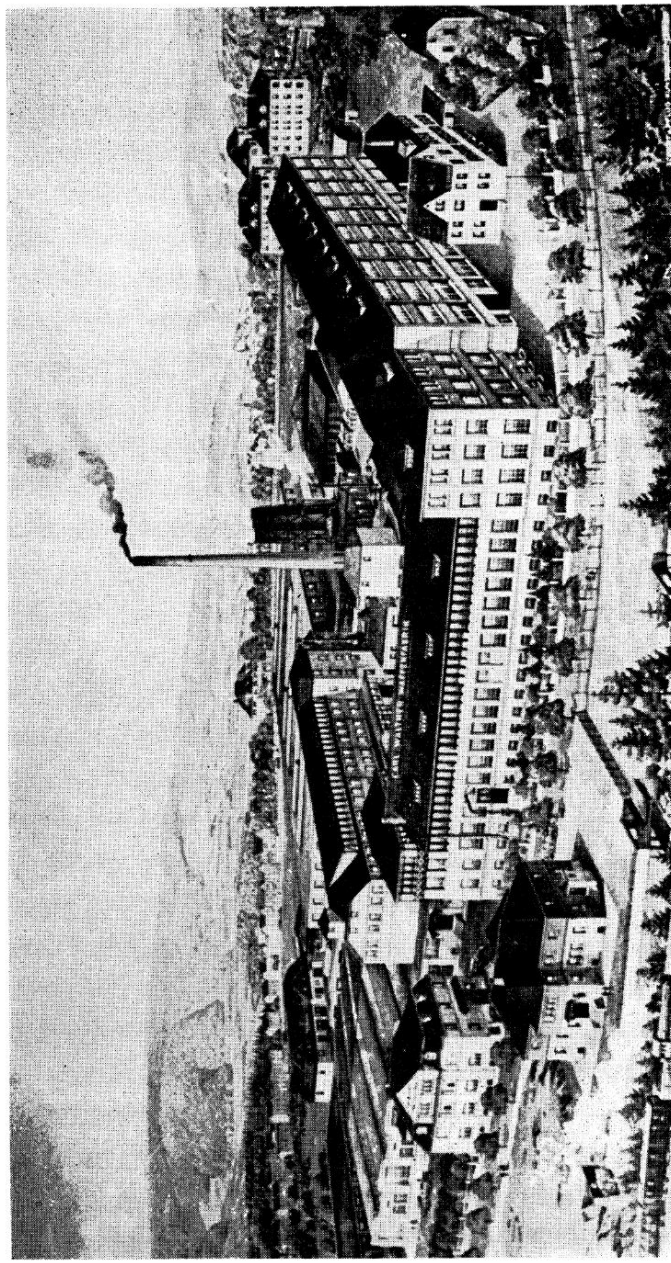
machine-gun but the Germans did, and most American and other Allied soldiers who died from machine-gun fire in World War I died from Maxim bullets. On the other hand, most of the Germans who died from Allied machine-gun fire—until the introduction of Browning machine-guns in the closing months of the war—died from British and French machine-guns invented by Maxim and Hotchkiss, both Americans.

It can be safely said that in World War II German light ordnance was deficient in but one respect—semi-automatic rifles. The majority of German *soldaten* went through the war carrying Model 98 Mausers. Many Americans, of course, carried the bolt-action 1903 Springfield, which is merely an American adaptation of the Mauser.

The United States, armed with the M1 Garand, was the only major power to have a majority of its troops armed with semi-automatic rifles. The Germans, after their attack on the USSR, took immediate steps to remedy the Werhmacht's lack of quick-firing rifles.

Fritz Walther almost at once produced a stopgap weapon—anything to stop those *verdammten* Russians! The result was the 41-W. The utilization of the muzzle-cone gas system was combined with a previous Mauser experimental system. The rifles were easily manufactured and were rugged, but such defects as excessive barrel erosion and susceptibility to fouling led Walther and other German arms makers to continue their research. The result was the Gewehr 43 and the Kar. 43.

The quality of German arms, like the quality of the arms of other nations, suffered in the final months of the war. One writer, noting the proximity of Zella-Mehlis to Buchenwald concentration camp, stated that slave labor was used in the Walther plant. However, one German viewpoint—given in answer to a direct question by one writer—was, "No prisoners of war were used in the Walther plant." He did not directly answer the question, "Was slave labor used?" It is, however, in this discussion an unimportant point.



FORMER WALTHER PLANT AT ZELLA-MEHLIS.

Finito Benito and Adios Adolf

Zella-Mehlis, the target of Allied bombing raids, suffered considerable damage. Two breweries were blown up but the immense Walther plant, a well-defined bomber target, was untouched.

The American Army reached Buchenwald and Zella-Mehlis in early April, 1945. Buchenwald inmates attempted to vent their pent-up wrath against the dying *Third Reich* by smashing the Walther machinery, but their attempts were futile against machines of this kind.

Colonel J. B. Jarrett, of U. S. Army Ordnance Intelligence, a visitor at the Walther plant shortly after the American occupation, reported that he was impressed by the size of the plant.

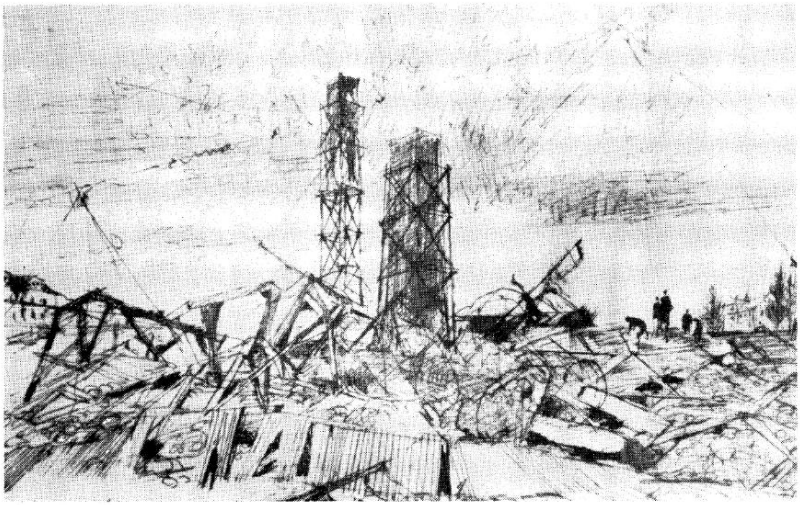
Fritz Walther's superb collection of Walther production arms and hundreds of experimental pieces which he had designed, were taken from the glass cases and distributed among the invading GI's.

The American forces occupied the Walther plant from April through June, 1945, at which time American-Russian zone lines were established. The Zella-Mehlis area was a few miles behind the Russian occupation border. The Russians dismantled the Walther plant and shipped the machinery either to East Germany or to the Soviet Union.

Director Fritz Walther remained at the Zella-Mehlis area throughout the American occupation. When he learned of the border change he escaped into the newly created American zone just before the Soviets marched into his factory.

French Walthers

Fifty-seven-year old Fritz Walther managed to hold his patent rights in Allied countries. Fritz Walther was destitute, at least of ready cash, when he fled from Zella-Mehlis to the American zone. Six years later he was back in business and now owns—Walther was always a family enterprise—three large factories. The plants at Niederstotzingen and Gerstetten manufacture



RUINS OF FACTORY AT ZELLA-MEHLIS, 1946.
(Artist's Drawing)

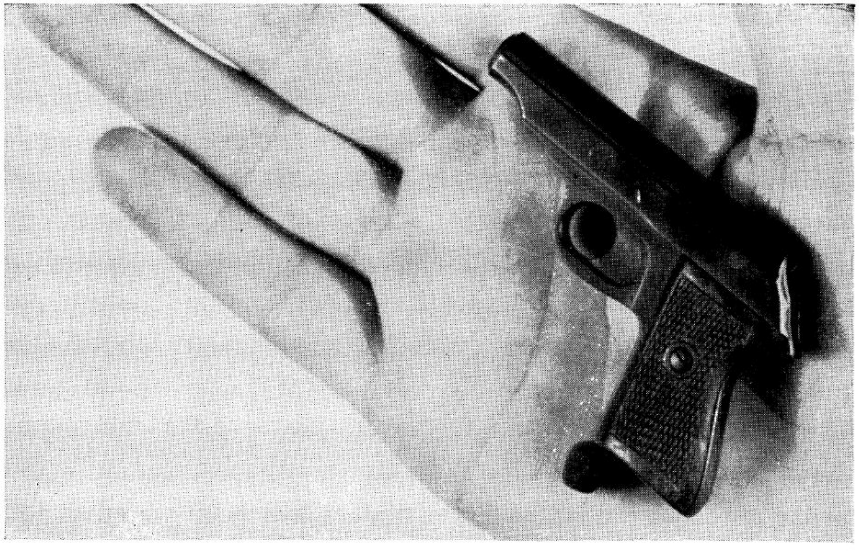
modern business machines while new weapons are forged at Ulm a. d. Donau (Danube).

Walther, his patents secure, entered negotiations with the French firm *Manufacture De Machines du Haut-Rhin,* better known as *"Manurhin,"* at Mulhouse-Bourtszweiller, Haut-Rhin Province.

Manurhin during the next decade manufactured Walther PP's and PPK's. A Manurhin-designed .22 target and sporter version of the PP was also marketed. This was merely the PP with a barrel that extended through and from the slide.

Hammerli-Walthers

Fritz Walther completed arrangements with the 250-year old Swiss arms firm of Hammerli to manufacture (under Walther license) a post-war version of the famous pre-war Olympia model .22 target pistol. These superb target arms are still manufactured. Master Sergeant Huelet ("Joe") Benner won the World's rapid-fire pistol championship with a .22 Hammerli Walther.



A WALTHER BLANK PISTOL.
Described as a 2mm blank pistol, its year of introduction is unknown.

Walther Today

Fritz Walther, always busy and forward-looking, is operating The Carl Walther *Sportswaffen Fabrik* at Ulm. He has resumed production of the PP, PPK, PP Sport, and the P-38. He has added a vest-pocket size .25 ACP automatic pistol and has announced the manufacture of a new Olympia .22 Short target pistol in which the magazine is forward of the trigger guard. The announced price of this piece is $295.00.

The West German Army has adopted the P-38. Walther recently submitted a new machine pistol, externally resembling our M-3 "Grease Gun" for German Army tests.

The P-38 will be manufactured in caliber .45 ACP and .38 Special, provided there is sufficient demand for this double-action pistol.

A .22 rifle, similar to the world famous pre-war Walther target rifle, is listed, as are several sporting .22's. The Walther .22 sporters, with the sole exception of the Winchester M52 Sporter (now discontinued), are probably the finest .22 sporters made.

Mauser-designed big game and varmint rifles are being made and Walther is again producing his famous .22 blank cartridge repeating pistols. Even air guns have received his attention.

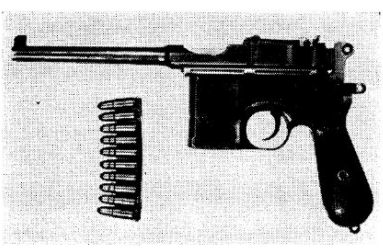
Chapter 2

Walther Pistols--1908-1921

WHEN Carl Walther produced his first pistol in 1908, the automatic pistol (or more properly the autoloading pistol) had been around since the American Civil War; but while patents collected dust it remained for German-born Hugo Borchardt, a Connecticut resident, to design the first successful auto pistol. Borchardt secured U. S. patent #571,260 dated November 10, 1896 in response to his application dated October 21, 1893.

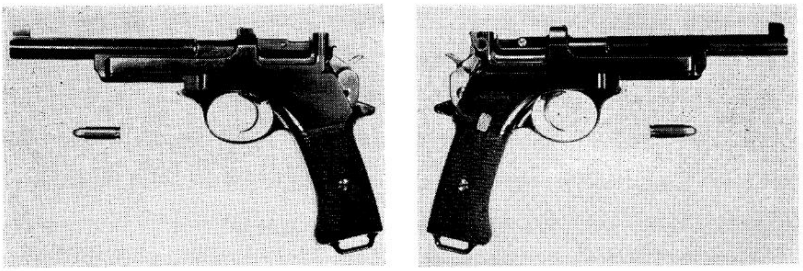
The Borchardt, the Borchardt-Leuger, and finally the Luger were originally manufactured by Ludwig Loewe in Berlin. The original Borchardt design was modified and improved by ordnance engineer Georg Leuger. The Luger, as it became known, was the standard side arm of the German Army from 1908 until it was succeeded by the Walther P-38 in 1938 but it was manufactured until 1942 and was used by the Germans throughout the war and by successful Allied souvenir hunters. Several million Lugers were made.

Peter Paul Mauser, probably the greatest German firearms de-



Left: FAMOUS MAUSER MILITARY PISTOL, MODEL 1896.
More than 700,000 of these pistols, including a full auto fire model were manufactured. A few were made in caliber 9mm Mauser and 9mm Parabellum (Luger).

Right: 7.63mm IMITATION MAUSER—1898.
Austrian-born Andreas Schwarzlose designed this one.



1901 MANNLICHER 7.63MM PISTOL.
Although patented in 1898, this pistol was not introduced commercially until 1901. It is a straight-case delayed blowback eight-shot pistol, one of the simplest automatics ever designed.

signer, marketed in 1896 his still-famous 7.63mm Mauser Military Pistol. More than 700,000 of these pistols were made plus untold pirated copies made in Spain and China. The Mauser was unusual in its design because, instead of a detachable box magazine carried in the butt, it was loaded by stripper clips (properly chargers) not unlike those used to load the U.S. (Mauser-inspired) 1903 Springfield. The Luger was, of course, loaded by a detachable box magazine (incorrectly called a clip) in the butt.

Another German firm, Bergman, began the manufacture of autoloading pistols in the early 1890's. Ritter von Mannlicher, who may well rank next to John Browning as a firearms designer of the first magnitude, designed an automatic pistol in 1900. The Mannlicher, which became a favorite pistol in South America, was manufactured in Austria by *Steyr Waffenfabrik*. The Mannlicher 1901 pistol was, as most of Mannlicher's inventions, ahead of its time—a delayed blowback pistol.

The most successful early pistol designer was John Browning. His first commercially manufactured auto pistol was the .32 Colt ACP, designed in 1898 and first manufactured by *Fabrique Nationale* in Herstal, Belgium. Several Browning pistols, the .25 ACP, .32 ACP, and the .380 ACP were manufactured by FN and by Colt. FN never made the Browning-designed Colt .45 Auto and Colt never made the Model 1935 Browning, which is now the standard side arm—except for the U.S.—of the NATO forces.

There has been no major design advance in auto pistols since John Browning's early pistols. Even the double-action, utilized by Walther for the first time on a commercially successful basis, had been used in the 1905 U. S. Army tests in the double-action Knoble pistol.

When World War I opened in August 1914 all major powers, except the ultra-conservative British and the backward Russians, had adopted an auto pistol as the standard side arm. The United States had the Colt Model 1911; Germany, the Luger; Austria, the Steyr; Belgium, the Browning; and France, the Ruby.

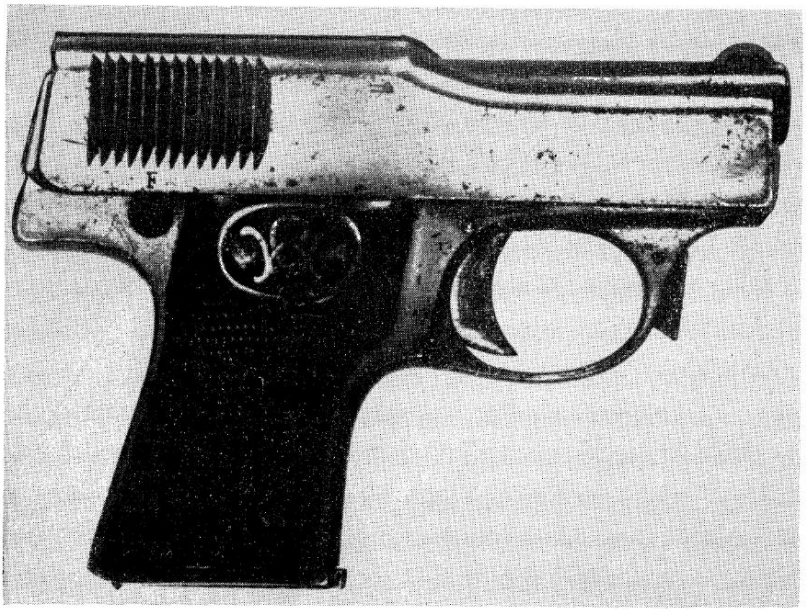
Continental police forces and armies have rarely adopted big caliber pistols. The preference has been and still is for lightweight high-velocity bullets. Only the insular British have made appreciable use of heavy caliber handguns. The American West was won with heavy calibers like the Winchester .44 CF and .45 Colt. The British, with vast experience in isolated portions of the globe, particularly among the warring tribes of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and the Northwest Province of India, discovered the need for big caliber heavy bullets.

Like Walther, Mauser introduced in 1908 a small caliber (.25 ACP) vest-pocket pistol.

WALTHER MODEL 1

Carl Walther and his sons noted the tremendous popularity of FN's Browning-designed "Vest-Pocket" pistol, Model 1905, caliber .25 ACP. FN sold 100,000 of these pistols between late 1905 and 1910. Colt commenced manufacture of the same model in 1908 and sold about 500,000 before manufacture was discontinued in World War II.

The Walther Model 1 marked the entrance of Germany into the field of pocket pistol manufacturing. This model was originally produced by Carl Walther in 1908 to meet the large German demand for the Belgian pocket pistols of 6.35mm (.25 Automatic Colt Pistol) caliber. However, so many were sold the following year that the pistol is sometimes referred to as the Model 1909. (This must not be confused with Model 9 of the Walther line, which is an entirely different type.)



WALTHER MODEL 1.

This was Walther's first venture into handgun manufacture and was made in 6.35mm Browning (.25 ACP) caliber. Each side is shown.

Basic Data, Walther Model 1

Caliber: .25 ACP (6.35mm Browning).
Length: 4.37 inches.
Weight: 12.8 ounces.
Stocks: Various materials but usually hard rubber, two-piece.
Magazine: Detachable box, 6 cartridges.
Safety: Thumb safety on left side.
Barrel Length: 2.11 inches.
Barrel: Fitted to receiver which is partly cut away to expose upper portion of barrel.
Ejection: Left.
Action: Blowback, unlocked.
Recoil Spring: Housed beneath barrel and over trigger guard.
Firing Mechanism: Internal hammer; striker fired, striker is housed in breechblock section of slide; single-action trigger.

Operation

This is an elementary blowback pistol fired by a striker housed in the breechblock section of the slide. The slide does not entirely enclose the barrel but is cutaway on top to leave the top of the barrel exposed.

The barrel forging extends forward from the main receiver to the end of the trigger guard extension. When the pistol is assembled the recoil spring and its guide are housed in the space between the bottom of the barrel and the top of the trigger guard section.

As the slide blows back, the recoil spring is compressed by the action of the front crosspiece connecting the slide arms. This forces the spring back around the guide and against its seating in the receiver. The latter is located below the chamber.

Takedown

The takedown system is a simple application of the earlier Steyr type. Pushing in the spring catch in the front end of the trigger guard pivots the upper end of the catch out of the path of the slide. Drawing the slide back in the receiver while holding in the catch, then lifting the rear of the slide up as its grooves clear their engagement guides in the receiver, permits the slide to be eased forward for removal over the muzzle of the barrel.

The recoil spring and guide may be removed from the front. Removing the stocks affords access to the trigger mechanism for dismounting. The striker pin and spring are readily pushed forward and sprung out of their mounting in the breechblock section of the slide.

WALTHER MODEL 2

Model 2 was introduced by Walther in 1909. It was much more successful than Model 1 but its distribution was still largely confined to Germany proper. Definite changes in slide and slide lock design were introduced. The slide covers the barrel as in the Browning and Colt types but is held in place by a removable knurled bushing about the muzzle of the barrel which is locked into the slide.

Basic Data, Walther Model 2

When Introduced: 1909.
Caliber: .25 ACP (6.35mm Browning).
Length: 4.22 inches.
Weight: 9.76 ounces.
Magazine: Detachable box, 6 rounds.
Safety: Manual only; thumb, left side.
Barrel Length: 2.13 inches.
Lands: 6.
Rifling: One/9.65 inches.
Twist: Right.
Barrel Mounting: Locked in position by knurled bushing at muzzle.
Ejection: Right.
Operation: Blowback.
Recoil Spring: Concentric, placed around barrel. The bushing, being pulled back by the recoiling slide compresses the recoil spring against the barrel mounting shoulder. Thus the barrel itself serves as a recoil spring guide.
Special Features: Special loading indicator. When chamber is empty the rear sight is low in the slide. When chamber is loaded, the sight is forced up into line for use in aiming.

Takedown

Remove magazine. Twist barrel bushing until it is unlocked from the slide. Bring the slide forward in its receiver guide tracks and remove from the front.

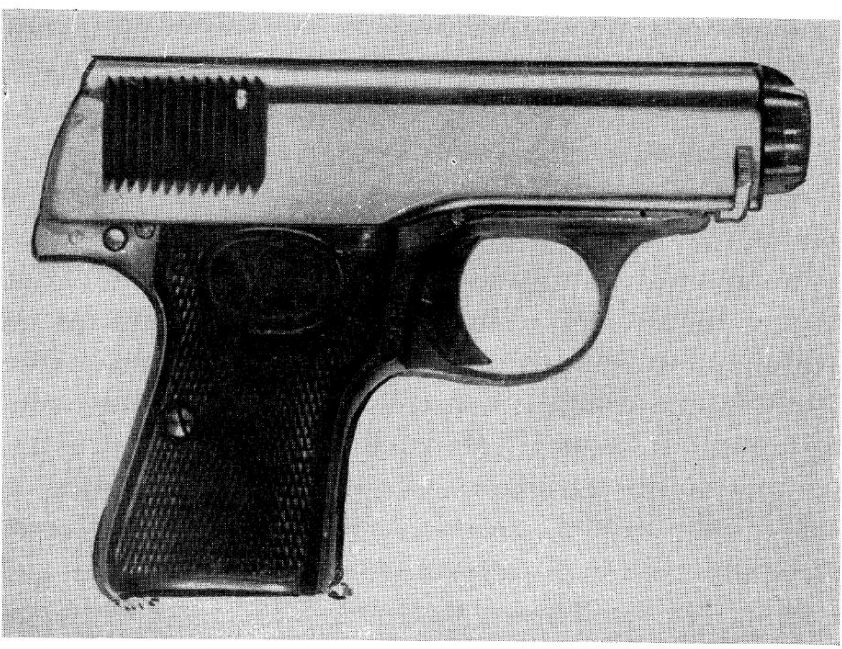
WALTHER MODEL 2.

Two views of the Model 2, also a .25 ACP are shown. This pistol was introduced in 1909.

WALTHER MODEL 3

Model 3 was introduced by Walther in 1910, following the general lines of the previous Model 2. It differed in caliber, however, being chambered for the 7.65mm Browning (.32 ACP) cartridge, which by that time had become accepted as the most popular pocket automatic caliber. The Model 3 was Walther's first pocket pistol; Models 1 and 2 were really vest-pocket pistols. The ejection port of the Model 3 was placed on the left side of the slide, the slide lock barrel bushing was modified, and the weight of the weapon increased to compensate for the heavier caliber.

As in Model 2, the Model 3 employed a concealed hammer firing system, a recoil spring mounted concentrically around the barrel, and a thumb safety on the left side of the receiver which when turned up to the rear engaged and positively locked the hammer in cocked position.



WALTHER MODEL 3.
Introduced in 1910, this was Walther's first 7.65mm Browning (.32 ACP) pistol.

The workmanship of the Model 3 was markedly better than that of the two earlier models, and its introduction marked the entrance of the Walther firm into the field of quality firearms manufacture.

Basic Data, Walther Model 3

When Introduced: 1910.
Caliber: .32 ACP (7.65mm Browning).
Length: 5.03 inches.
Weight: 16.64 ounces.
Magazine: Detachable box, 6 rounds.
Safety: Manual; thumb safety, left side. With safety placed in up position, the hammer is positively locked in the cocked position.
Barrel Length: 2.60 inches.
Lands: 6.
Rifling: One/11.81 inches.
Twist: Right.
Ejection: Left.
Firing Mechanism: Internal hammer.
Recoil Spring: Concentric—placed around barrel. When bushing is pulled back by the recoiling slide the recoil spring is compressed against barrel mounting shoulder. The barrel, as in the Model 2, acts as guide.

Takedown

Remove magazine and then twist barrel, pushing until it is unlocked from the slide which can now be brought forward along the track.

WALTHER MODEL 4

Model 4 was also introduced in 1910, produced by Walther in response to the demand for a larger pistol for more accurate shooting and for general police work. This weapon saw wide service during World War I as an officer's side arm. It is often referred to as the Model 1914, although in Germany it was captioned as the *Selbstlade Pistole* (Walther Model 4). While much of the original Walther design was retained, the grip was lengthened to receive a longer magazine, the barrel was lengthened to extend well beyond the end of the slide proper, and a special cylindrical slide extension was provided. This last feature

WALTHER MODEL 4.
Shows ejection port, safety, and each side.

was an expedient which permitted using much of the original machinery in manufacturing the new model.

Two variations of the standard Model 4 exist. The first is the standard type with a modified sight. The second has an internal trigger bar, modified slide, and safety checkering.

Basic Data, Walther Model 4

When Introduced: 1910 (Frequently and incorrectly referred to as Model 1914).
When Discontinued: 1918.
Caliber: .32 ACP (7.65mm Browning).
Length: 5.91 inches.
Weight: 18.58 ounces.
Magazine: Detachable box, 8 rounds.
Safety: Manual; thumb safety, left side.
Barrel Length: 3.46 inches.
Lands: 4.
Rifling: One/9.65 inches.
Twist: Right.
Ejection: Left.
Action: Blowback, unlocked.
Firing Mechanism: Internal hammer, single-action.
Recoil Spring: Concentric, mounted around barrel.

Operation

The slide cannot conceivably be blown back off the receiver in this type of mounting. Moreover, as the rear breechblock section of the slide when lowered engages in guides in the sides of the receiver, it is impossible for it to blow off to the front under any conditions.

The slide extension, its nose serving as forward compression point for the recoil spring within it, is forced into the slide proper against spring tension; then twisted until its curved locking slot securely locks into a lug machined inside the slide. This forms a bayonet-type lock. The front sight was mounted on the slide extension to afford greater sighting radius.

Ejection is from the left side, and the thumb safety is also on the left. The trigger bar, running from the trigger to the sear on the side of the receiver wall, is curved to enable it to seat in a

niche in the underside of the slide only when the pistol is fully closed and the trigger momentarily released. This serves as a safety disconnector to prevent firing more than one shot for each trigger pull, and is the forerunner of the later Walther disconnectors.

As in all blowback pistols of this general design, pulling the slide back cocks the arm. In this concealed hammer type, a surface machined into the slide pushes the hammer back, thereby driving the attached hammer strut down. The mainspring around the strut is compressed. At full cock a coil spring forces the sear ahead to catch and hold the hammer back.

Every time the slide goes back it rides over and forces down the trigger bar. When the slide goes forward to chamber a cartridge, the hammer remains at full cock. However, a hook at the end of the trigger bar cannot reach the sear to pull it out of hammer engagement until the trigger is released. The spring pulls the trigger and trigger bar forward to the point where the upper part of the bar can rise high in the slide and make sear contact possible.

Takedown

The takedown is simple and requires no tools except a screw driver to remove the stocks. Push the slide extension in and twist to the left to unlock it. Ease it and the recoil spring out and remove. Remove magazine. Pull slide back, lift rear end until it releases from its guides, then push it forward over the barrel. Removing the stocks affords access to the very simple lockwork.

WALTHER MODEL 5

Model 5 was produced by Walther in 1913 to meet a large domestic and foreign demand for a fine pistol of the vest-pocket type. The design followed very closely that of the earlier Model 2 but the finish and general manufacture are much superior. Ejection is to the right, as in Model 2, and the thumb safety is on the left.

Basic Data, Walther Model 5

When Introduced: 1913.
When Discontinued: 1918.
Caliber: .25 ACP (6.35mm Browning).
Length: 4.22 inches.
Weight: 9.62 ounces.
Magazine: Detachable box, 6 rounds.
Safety: Manual; thumb safety, left side.
Barrel Length: 2.13 inches.
Lands: 4.
Rifling: One/9.45 inches.
Twist: Right.
Barrel: Locked in position by knurled bushing at muzzle.
Ejection: Right (as on Model 2 of which the Model 5 is a refined version).
Operation: Blowback, unlocked.
Recoil Spring: Concentric, placed around barrel. As the bushing is pulled back, the recoiling slide compresses recoil spring against barrel mount shoulder.
Special Features: Special loading indicator. When chamber is empty the rear sight is low in the slide. When chamber is loaded, the sight is forced up into line for use in aiming.

WALTHER MODEL 6

This pistol is a big brother of the .32 caliber Model 4. It is a simple blowback, unlocked pistol using the powerful 9mm Luger (*Pistole* 08) military cartridge. *Its use is definitely not recommended.*

In 1915 the German Army, then officially armed with the 9mm Luger, found itself in dire need of additional side arms. Walther tooled up to manufacture a pistol of the type of the low powered Model 4 which would handle the Luger cartridge. Reliance was placed on the security of the slide mounting design (already pointed out under Model 4), in increasing the weight of the pistol, and in using a very heavy recoil spring to slow down the slide opening.

As manufacture of these weapons was discontinued in 1917 and never resumed, all models encountered are of World War I manufacture. It is notorious that no country ever maintains its

WALTHER MODEL 5.

The Model 5, Walther's third 6.35mm Browning (.25 ACP) pistol. This model was vastly superior to its predecessors in craftsmanship and finish.

WALTHER MODEL 6, INTRODUCED IN 1915.
This was the first Walther chambered for the 9mm Parabellum (Luger) cartridge. It was also chambered for the 9mm Browning Short (9mm Kurz).

arms manufacturing standards during a war. Springs in these old pistols may be too weak now to stand the pounding of cartridges developing 24,000 lbs. breech pressure or better.

While the mounting design and general construction prevent the slide from blowing off to injure the shooter, nevertheless the breech may open while the pressure is high enough to jam the slide back and ruin the pistol. This warning is particularly important since one still may encounter much ammunition manufactured during World War II for submachine guns which will also chamber in this arm. The normal Luger 9mm velocity during World War I was about 1075 feet per second. Ammunition of that caliber loaded in the 1940's in the United States for the British, and by the Italians for their Beretta submachine guns, produced velocities of 1375 to as much as 1500 feet per second. In many cases pressures are very substantially higher than those originally used.

This arm should be considered a collection item. If it is used, care should be taken to see that the recoil spring is heavy enough so a *very* strong pull is necessary to draw the slide back. The slide stop in the receiver below the barrel and the contact surfaces on the slide itself should be checked carefully to see if they are battered by past use.

Basic Data, Walther Model 6

When Introduced: 1915.
When Discontinued: 1917.
Caliber: 9mm Parabellum (Luger) (Low power loads *only*).
Ammunition: This was the first Walther designed for the 9mm Parabellum cartridge.
Length: 8.25 inches.
Weight: 34 ounces.
Magazine: Detachable box, 8 rounds.
Safety: Manual; thumb, left side of receiver.
Barrel Length: 4.75 inches.
Ejection: Right.
Action: Blowback, unlocked.
Recoil Spring: Concentric; placed around barrel.

This pistol, except for size, is almost identical to the earlier Model 4 and to the later Model 7. Its use is NOT recommended.

The Model 6 Dismounted

Except that they are larger, the parts of this pistol are much the same as in the earlier Model 4 (.32 ACP caliber). The big pistol, like the Model 7, ejects to the right; the Model 4 ejects through a port on the left side of the slide. The photo shows top detail of the slide with its rib matted to make sighting easier. The slide extension which fits and locks into the front of the slide is turned so its locking slot can be readily seen. The front sight is on this extension.

The recoil spring mounts around the barrel, its front end resting in the nose of the slide extension. The magazine has been withdrawn and the stocks removed to expose the very simple lock work.

The barrel is mounted rigidly in the receiver and should not be dismounted. The curved trigger bar with its disconnecting

THE MODEL 6, FIELD-STRIPPED.

The barrel pinned to the receiver is a design familiar to many Walther pistols.

hump can be seen running from the trigger to which it is attached. The hammer has been lowered to show the hookup between the tip of the trigger bar and the sear. The coil sear spring is mounted directly behind the sear in a receiver well. The hammer strut and mainspring are in the rear of the grip.

WALTHER MODEL 7

This pistol, designed by Walther in 1917, is a small (.25 ACP) version of the Model 6 and was widely used in World War I by German staff officers. The description of Model 6 applies generally to Model 7. The Model 7 is a reliable and accurate weapon of its type.

Note also that this model is identical in design, operation, and assembly of parts to the 7.65mm Model 4 except that the ejection port is on the right side, the extractor is at the bottom of the ejection port rather than slightly below center, the shape of the grip pieces has been modified, and the trigger extension is internal rather than external.

Basic Data, Walther Model 7

When Introduced: 1917.
When Discontinued: 1918.
Caliber: .25 ACP (6.35mm Browning).
Length: 5.32 inches.
Weight: 11.81 ounces; 10 ounces, less magazine.
Magazine: Detachable box, 8 rounds.
Safety· Manual; thumb safety, left side.
Barrel Length: 3.04 inches.
Lands: 4.
Rifling: One/9.84 inches.
Twist: Right.
Ejection: Right.
Action: Blowback, unlocked.
Recoil Spring: Concentric, mounted around barrel with front end resting in nose of slide extension.

Takedown

Twist barrel extension and remove slide. Remove grip plates to expose lock work.

WALTHER MODEL 7.

Each side is shown of this popular "stingy" or "hide out" pistol. Manufactured in .25 ACP, it was born in 1917 and died in 1918—but not before becoming popular among German officers.

WALTHER MODEL 8

Model 8 was produced in 1920 under authority of the League of Nations. It marks the return to firearms production by Germany after World War I. It is an interesting fact that in Europe pistols of this caliber (.25 ACP) and design are very highly esteemed by staff officers; during World War II they were very often carried by German air, SS, and tank forces as auxiliary weapons.

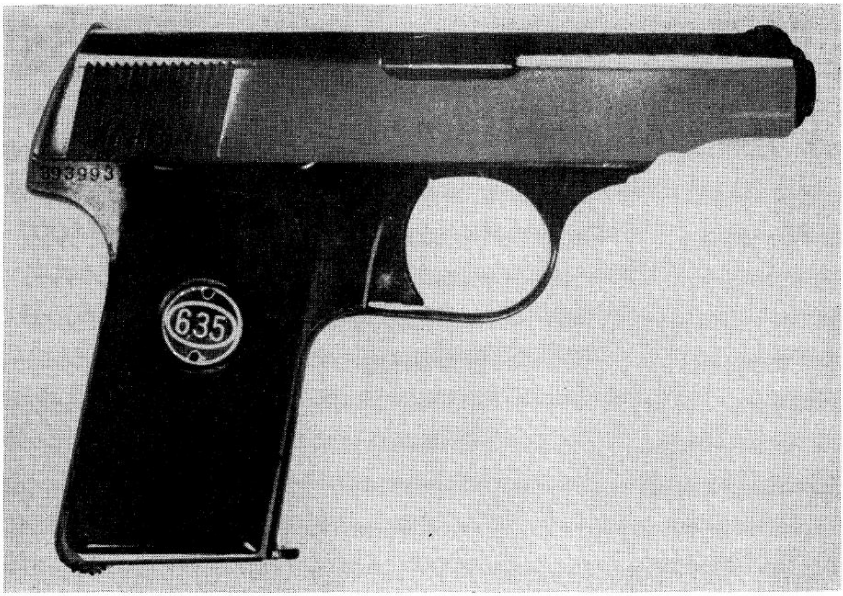
While the .25 ACP caliber is admittedly inadequate for general military purposes, returned soldiers who faced the Germans at close quarters are in general agreement that this small auxiliary weapon constituted a distinct hazard when dealing with captured enemy soldiers. The ease with which it could be concealed and its general reliability and deadliness at close quarters often made the Model 8 (and also the Model 9) formidable weapons.

The Model 8 is the direct forerunner of the later and more famous Walther designs. It employs most of the tested design features of the earlier Walther concealed-hammer models, but has a modified slide which is streamlined to enclose the barrel. The recoil spring is about the barrel and is compressed directly by the shoulder at the slide mouth.

The trigger guard is made to serve as a slide lock. It is hinged to the receiver at its lower end and is under spring pressure. Its upper forward end rises through a cut in the receiver and securely locks the slide.

In terms of design, workmanship, and finish, the Model 8 has been called the best pistol of its type that Walther made. It will often be found silver or gold plated, heavily engraved, or made of lightweight aluminum alloys. The light metal variety of this pistol weights only 9.5 ounces.

Because of its somewhat longer barrel and grip, the Model 8 was used extensively in Europe prior to World War II for special target shooting. Many matches were won with it.



WALTHER MODEL 8.

Introduced in 1920, this was the firm's most popular .25 ACP pistol. More than 200,000 were made between 1920 and 1936; many more were made during World War II. Each side is shown.

MODEL 8, CUTAWAY VIEW.
This shows the chamber loaded and hammer cocked ready to fire. The internal hammer is automatically cocked when the slide recoils. Hinged trigger guard takedown feature was adapted to the famous PP and PPK models.

Basic Data, Walther Model 8

When Introduced: 1920.
When Discontinued: 1945.
Caliber: .25 ACP (6.35mm Browning).
Size: Length: 5.12 inches; height: 2.69 inches; width: 0.85 inches.
Weight: 12.38 ounces (lightweight model 9.50 ounces).
Magazine: Detachable box, 8 rounds.
Safety: Manual. Trigger guard serves as slide lock safety. It is hinged to receiver at its lower end and is under spring tension. Its upper forward end rises through a cut in the receiver and securely locks the slide.
Barrel Length: 2.92 inches.
Lands: 6.
Rifling: One/9.84 inches.
Twist: Right.
Ejection: Right.

Firing Mechanism: Striker fired.
Recoil Spring: Concentric; mounted around barrel.
Mainspring: Coil type, housed in grip.

Takedown

To dismount the Model 8 the catch on the right side of the trigger guard is pulled and the trigger guard is drawn down and pushed to the side. The slide may now be drawn back, lifted, then eased forward over the barrel. The concealed hammer, safety, and other features are modifications of those already described.

Stripping the Model 8

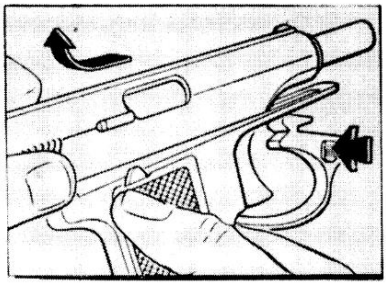
Remove the magazine, check the chamber to be sure it is not loaded. Push in the takedown latch on the right-hand side of the trigger guard, pulling the guard down. Draw the slide to the rear, lift the end free from the frame, then ease it forward off the barrel.

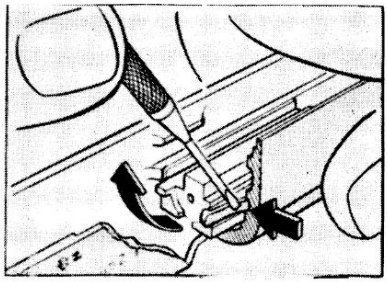
Removal of the early model firing pin presents a problem. It is necessary to pry the extractor free of its recess in the slide while prying up the front edge of the breechblock assembly since the extractor retains the breechblock and a projection on it retains the firing pin.

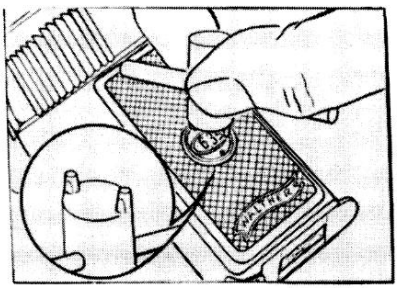
Unless a special tool is made, it is difficult to remove the blue medallion (grip screw) without damaging it. With the screw out, lift off the right-hand grip, remove the magazine, and unscrew the left grip screw from the inside.

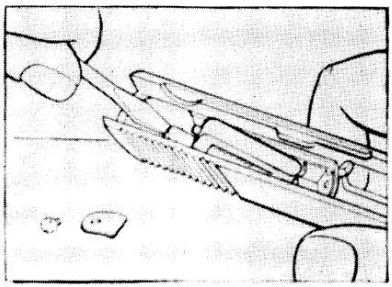
To take the firing pin out of the late model, remove the retaining plate screw and the retaining plate. The firing pin assembly can then be pried free of the slide. Since the retaining plate screw is usually extremely tight, your screwdriver must fit the screw slot properly to prevent damage to the head.

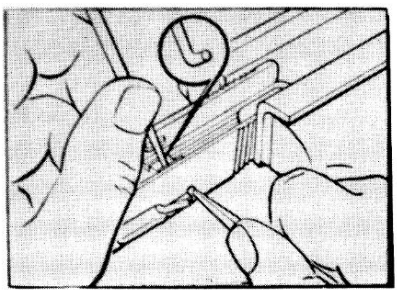
The late model extractor is retained by a spring and a plunger. It may be easily removed by pushing back the spring loaded plunger with a jeweler's screwdriver. Then push the tail of the extractor out of the slide from the inside. To do so, you may have to resort to a special tool again.







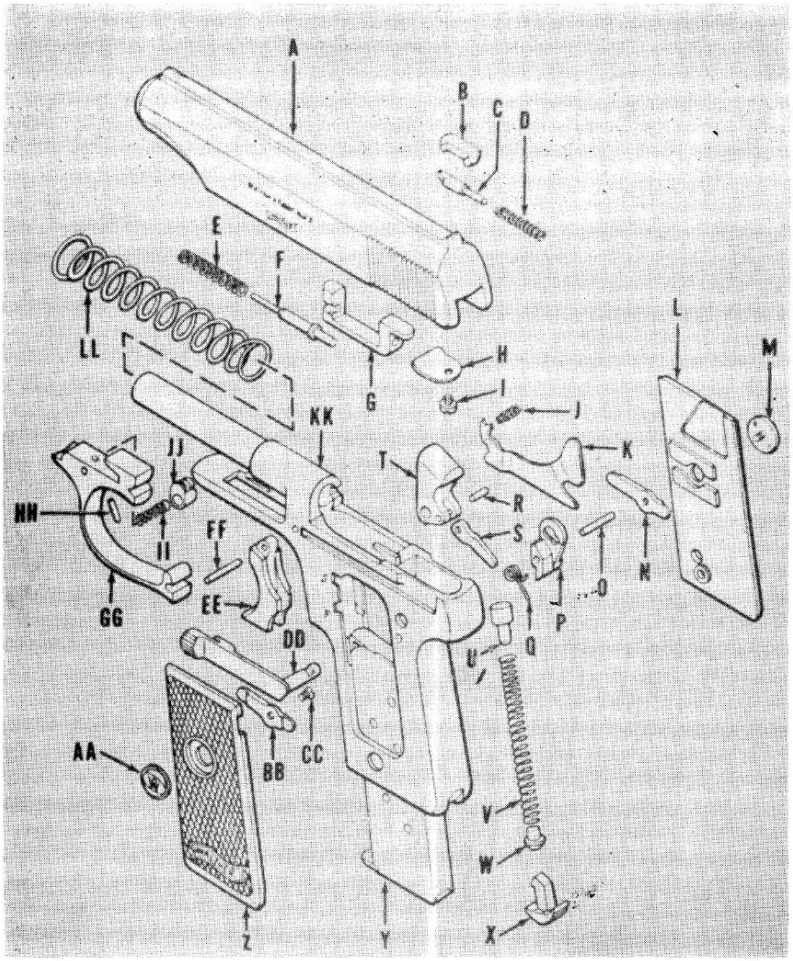




Top to bottom, left to right: Removing the slide; removing early model firing pin. Removing medallion grip screw; removing firing pin assembly—late model. Last photo shows removing late model extractor.

In order to remove the safety catch, the grips must be removed. Ease the internal hammer to the fired position. Press the safety in toward the receiver out of engagement with the notches and revolve to a position from which it can be lifted free of the receiver.

Note illustrations.



PARTS LIST, MODEL 8.

Legend:

A—Slide
B—Extractor
C—Extractor plunger
D—Extractor spring
E—Firing pin spring
F—Firing pin
G—Firing pin housing
H—Retaining plate
I—Retaining plate screw
J—Trigger bar spring
K—Trigger bar
L—Right-hand grip
M—Right-hand grip screw
N—Right-hand grip retainer
O—Sear pin
P—Sear
Q—Sear spring
R—Hammer strut pin
S—Hammer strut

Legend:

T—Hammer
U—Mainspring plunger
V—Mainspring
W—Magazine latch plunger
X—Magazine latch
Y—Magazine
Z—Left-hand grip
AA—Left-hand grip nut
BB—Left-hand grip retainer
CC—Left-hand grip screw
DD—Safety catch
EE—Trigger
FF—Trigger pin
GG—Trigger guard
HH—Takedown latch pin
II—Takedown latch spring
JJ—Takedown latch
KK—Receiver and barrel assembly
LL—Recoil spring

WALTHER MODEL 9

Model 9 was first marketed in 1921 in answer to the demand for a high-class, vest-pocket pistol of the smallest practicable size. It represents a rather curious reversion to the general design of the original Walther Model 1. The slide construction is much the same. The slide is cutaway to expose the full length of the top of the barrel, and its side arms are joined at the front to serve as a compressor for the recoil spring. The upper arm of the trigger guard reaches ahead the full length of the barrel, and the recoil spring is housed in the space between barrel and trigger-guard extension.

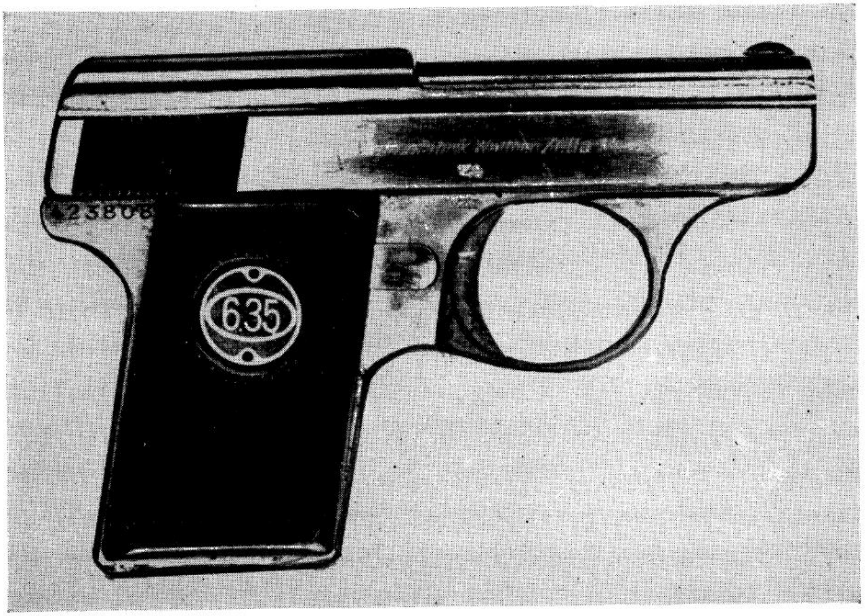
Like the Model 8, this model was available in gold or silver-plated finish, with and without engraving.

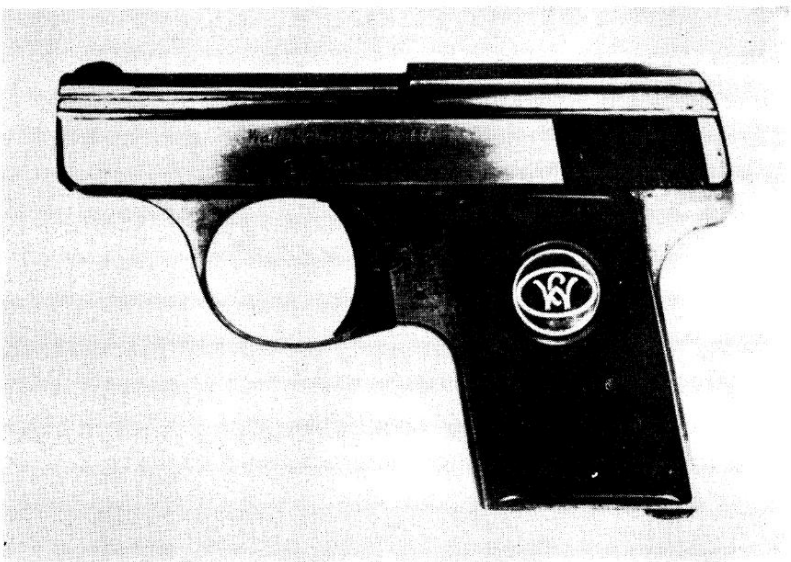
A comment on prices may be of interest. Walther's pre-World War II U.S. distributors, the A. F. Stoeger Company, sold the standard Model 9 for $20.00. The standard blue-finish Model 9 was listed in Walther catalogs as Model 9a, and was marked 9a on the left-hand side of the slide. A fancy gold-plated version was marked "Model 9" on the slide but was listed in Walther's catalog as Model 9b. Gold and silver-plated models which included gold and silver screw heads were also listed.

Stoeger listed the engraved blue-finish Model 9 at $48 and nickel-plated Model 9's with pearl or ivory grips at $45. The nickel-plated model with engraving was $70. The gold-plated model with ivory or pearl grips sold for $57.50 and the gold-plated ivory or pearl handled model with engraving was $82.50. These were bargain prices. The 1962 TP Model .25 ACP, plain version, costs $80, or more than twice the cost of the FN Browning, which was equal in design and workmanship.

Basic Data, Walther Model 9

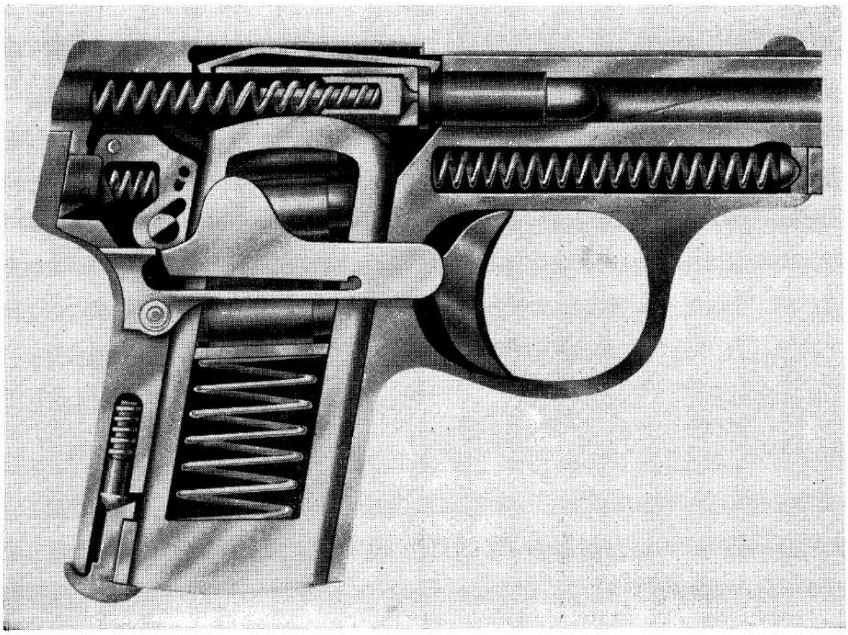
When Introduced: 1921.
When Discontinued: 1945.
Caliber: .25 ACP (6.35mm Browning).
Size: Length: 3.94 inches; height: 2.625 inches; width: .75 inches.
Weight: 8.95 ounces.
Magazine: Detachable box, 6 rounds.
Safety: Manual; left side of receiver. Push down to lock striker.





WALTHER MODEL 9.

Two views of the Model 9 are shown. Introduced in 1921, this nine-ounce pistol was a popular World War II vest-pocket pistol (caliber .25 ACP).



CUTAWAY VIEW OF MODEL 9.

This shows the pistol with cartridge in the chamber at the instant of firing. Pressure on the trigger has released the striker. The striker spring has driven the striker forward against the head of the cartridge. As the slide recoils, the striker will be recocked.

Barrel Length: 2.00 inches.
Lands: 6.
Rifling: One/9.06 inches.
Twist: Right.
Ejection: Left.
Firing Mechanism: Striker fired.
Recoil Spring: Coil spring mounted beneath barrel as in Model 1.
Special Features: When striker is cocked its end protrudes through hole in rear face of slide. A glance in the daylight or a touch at night will tell whether or not the pistol is cocked. Remember this is only a cocking indicator and *doesn't indicate* if the chamber is loaded or empty.

This pistol combines the firing mechanism of Model 1 with some of the Model 8's takedown features. Like the Model 1, the barrel is partly exposed.

The Model 9 is striker fired. When the striker is forced back to the cocked position by the recoiling slide, its rear end protrudes through a hole in the rear face of the slide. Thus a glance or a touch will tell if the arm is cocked. Note that this is only a *cocking* indicator—it does not tell if the chamber is loaded, as do the signal pins in later models. The safety, as in the Model 8, is on the left side of the receiver, directly behind the trigger. Pushing it down locks the striker.

Takedown

The pistol is easily dismounted. Use the magazine bottom to loosen the bolt at the rear which locks the slide and receiver. Then raise the rear end of the slide and push it forward over the barrel. Unscrewing the stocks exposes the lock work for ready dismounting.

THE MODEL TP .25 ACP (1962).
Clearly a Walther though vastly refined over early models in the line.

Chapter 3

Walther Model PP, MP, and PPK

WALTHER *Waffenfabrik* had been making pistols for 21 years when this Fritz Walther-designed pistol was placed on the market in 1929. It was a coming-of-age pistol, inasmuch as it was the first Walther—and first commercially successful double-action pistol—to offer anything new in the way of design.

WALTHER MODEL PP

The double-action pistol was not new. Back in 1905 the double-action Knoble pistol had been submitted for the Army Ordnance trials. Other double-action pistols had been developed but until Walther's, none were commercially successful. Walther was the first designer and manufacturer to combine the double-action element with other pistol advanced-design features. The new pistol represented the best design elements of previous Walthers and the best features—like the double-action feature—of previous but unproved pistols by other designers and manufacturers.

Other double-action pistols, the Mauser and the Sauer in Germany, and after World War II the Smith and Wesson in the United States, were marketed but the PP and other Walthers which utilize the double-action feature reign almost supreme in comparison.

The model PP is a blowback unlocked pistol. Theoretically with the barrel rigidly mounted to the receiver as in the PP, better accuracy should be obtainable. Little difference, however, can be seen in results of practical tests with this assembly in contrast to the removable-barrel types.

FIGURE 1. THE MODEL PP.

Model PP was made in four calibers: .22 Long Rifle, .25 ACP, .32 ACP, and .380 ACP (9mm Browning Short).

Construction

Like the Model 8, the trigger guard is hinged to the receiver and is utilized to lock the slide. Pulling it down and pushing it to the side will permit slide removal when the slide is drawn back far enough to disengage from the receiver runners, lifted at the breech end, then moved forward off over the muzzle of the barrel.

Also like the Model 8 the slide is streamlined to enclose the barrel, and its front shoulder acts to compress the recoil spring around the barrel as the slide is pulled or blown back. This system of slide design and mounting positively prevents the slide from being blown off to injure the shooter under any circumstances. The rear of the slide is machined to serve as the breechblock in standard fashion.

One unusual feature is the signal pin mounted with its spring in the slide above the firing pin. When the chamber is empty the spring forces the pin ahead into the chamber space, leaving the rear of the pin flush with the slide. When there is a cartridge in the chamber, the head of the cartridge case forces the pin back against its spring and the rear end of the pin protrudes from the slide where it can be seen or felt. (Note this feature is found only in the .32 and .380 calibers, which are center-fire. In the .22, which is rim fire, there is no satisfactory place for the signal pin, since the firing pin must strike the rim of the case to discharge the cartridge.) Furthermore, it should be noted that in models of this pistol made during the closing years of the late World War when manufacturing short cuts were being taken to speed production, this pin was often omitted from all calibers. These pistols were issued to German troops because of a shortage of regular military caliber weapons.

A simple and effective disconnector prevents firing more than one shot for each pull of the trigger. As in earlier models, the disconnection is brought about by having the trigger bar so shaped that it is forced down as the slide moves back, and its rear end is lowered beyond the point where it can draw the sear out of engagement with the hammer.

Basic Data, Walther PP

Model: PP (*Polizei Pistole*—Police Pistol).

When Introduced: 1929.

When Discontinued: 1945. Production later resumed (see French "Manurhin" Walther Pistols, chapter 8).

Calibers: .22 Long Rifle (5.6mm), .25 ACP (6.35mm Browning), .32 ACP (7.65mm Browning), and .380 ACP (9mm Browning Short or 9mm Browning Kurz. Kurz—Short). Early pre-World War II experimental versions may have been made in an 8mm Ultra caliber.

Size: Length: 6.69 inches; height: 4.29 inches (same all calibers); width (slide): 0.865 inches (same all calibers); width (grip): 1.18 inches (same all calibers).

Weight: 23.98 ounces (.32 ACP).

Magazine: Detachable box. A push-button release is located on the left side of the receiver or just forward of the butt plate. Capacity of magazine is 8 rounds (.32 ACP). Various extension magazines are available.

Safeties: Manual; engagement of thumb lever on left side of receiver permits hammer to fall safely on loaded cartridge since both the trigger and the firing pin are locked.

Barrel Length: 3.85 inches.

Lands: 6 (.32 ACP).

Rifling: One/8.27 inches (.32 ACP).

Twist: Right (.32 ACP).

Barrel Mounting: Fitted and pinned to receiver frame. The barrel cannot be removed in field stripping.

Ejection: Right.

Firing Mechanism: Outside hammer. Independent (or flying) firing pin. Double-action trigger.

Operation: Blowback, unlocked.

Mainspring: Coil spring in butt operates through hammer strut compression.

Recoil Spring: Concentric; mounted around barrel.

Trigger: Pivoted. When the hammer is cocked a squeeze on the trigger draws the trigger bar forward until the sear is disengaged. When the hammer is not cocked a squeeze on the trigger pulls a hammer cocking bent thus raising the hammer into position for the second phase of the double-action pull.

Disconnector: When the slide recoils backward it forces the trigger bar downward so that the rear of the bar cannot release the sear.

BASIC DATA, OTHER PP CALIBERS

PP .22 Long Rifle

Length: 6.69 inches.
Weight: 22.57 ounces.
Magazine: 10 rounds.
Barrel Length: 3.85 inches.

PP .25 ACP

Length: 6.54 inches.
Weight: 25.21 ounces.
Magazine: 8 rounds.
Barrel Length: 3.35 inches.
Lands: 6.
Rifling: One/7.48 inches.
Twist: Right.

The above caliber in either PP or PPK is probably the rarest of all production Walthers. Only a few were made between 1929 and 1945. Post-war manufacture of PP's or PPK's in this caliber was not resumed by either Manurhin or Walther.

PP .380 ACP

Length: 6.54 inches.
Weight: 23.45 ounces.
Magazine: Detachable box, 7 rounds.
Barrel Length: 3.35 inches.

This caliber was introduced in the PP during the early 1930's. Manurhin made Mark II PP's and PPK's in this caliber.

General Comments

The Model PP had certain features already introduced in the Model 8. These included:

Trigger Guard: This is hinged to the receiver and is utilized to lock the slide. Pulling it down and pushing it to the side will permit slide removal when the slide is drawn back far enough to disengage from the receiver runners, lifted at the breech end, then moved forward off over the muzzle.

Slide: The recoil spring completely encircles the barrel. The spring is completely enclosed by the streamlined slide. When the

slide is blown backwards its front shoulder compresses the recoil spring within. With this design it is impossible for the slide to blow off and possibly injure the shooter or a bystander.

Special Features

A spring encircles the signal pin, the latter being mounted to lie in an axis with the barrel, the forward end toward the chamber and the rear end above the firing pin. When there is no cartridge in the chamber the signal pin spring forces the pin forward into the empty chamber so that its rear is flush with the outside rear face of the slide. When there is a cartridge in the chamber the signal pin is forced backward and part of it protrudes outside the slide. Thus, by sight in daylight or by touch in the dark, the shooter can tell if the chamber is loaded.

The signal pin feature is not found in the Model 8 nor in the .22 Long Rifle PP or PPK. During the war the signal pin was frequently omitted in an effort to expedite production.

A few PP's were made with a release catch located on the bottom of the grip adjacent to the base of the detachable magazine.

Although the standard push-button release was slightly faster, the bottom catch release was better for military use inasmuch as soldiers under stress in battle have been known to mistakenly or accidentally trip the button release thus sometimes dropping a full or partly loaded magazine.

A. F. Stoeger sold the standard blue finish PP for $38 in calibers .32 and .380 while the .22 L.R. Model cost $40. A stainless steel barrel was $4.00 extra, chrome plating cost an extra $5.00, and a detachable radium night sight was $3.00. A gold-plated PP with ivory or pearl grips cost $117.50.

Some models were made with duralumin slides or even with duralumin receivers. An all-duralumin model weighed about 25 percent less than the standard all-steel model.

Presentation models, of soft green alloy, were not made to be fired. The rifling of these ceremonial pistols will wear out after even a few rounds have been fired.

Other Manufacture

Pre-war and post-war Walther Model PP's were of the finest craftsmanship and finish but while the wartime Walthers—which did not carry the Walther banner—had greater tolerances and a rough finish which frequently showed tool marks, they were better advanced—designwise—than any American pistol.

There is evidence that unauthorized modification (minor) and manufacture of the basic Walther PP design were accomplished in caliber 7.65mm in Budapest, Hungary in the 1947-1948 period for police use. Modifications made are described as follows:

> The trigger guard unit is lightened and cut out.
>
> A firing pin lock has been added. This is an added mechanical safety which prevents firing until the slide is fully closed.
>
> The chamber indicator is forced up instead of backwards.

In addition to Walther-authorized post-war manfacture of the Model PP in France, manufacture has been authorized in Turkey where an exact copy of the German PP is made in 7.65mm Browning and 9mm Browning Short by the government directed plant at Kirikkale, probably for Turkish service issue.

Operation

As in all automatic pistols, the slide must be drawn back over a loaded magazine and then permitted to go forward to load the firing chamber. (Alternately, of course, the slide may be drawn and held back and a cartridge dropped into the chamber through the ejection port on the right side of this pistol. This is awkward.) The act of drawing back the slide pushes the hammer back to full cock. If it is desired to lower the hammer safely on the loaded chamber, it is necessary only to push down the thumb safety catch on the left side of the slide. Pushing this catch revolves a cutaway stem inside the slide, causing the solid steel surface to move down between the hammer and the head of the firing pin. As the pressure is continued, the stem continues to turn until a surface strikes a lever which frees the hammer from the

sear. The hammer slams down harmlessly against a solid steel surface on the interposed safety.

An automatic safety is also incorporated. This is a steel block so shaped that it prevents the hammer from reaching the firing pin when the hammer and trigger are at rest. Thus even if the thumb safety is not applied, the pistol hammer can be struck violently without reaching the firing pin. Only when the hammer is brought to full cock does the safety block rise to a point where a cut in the hammer face can pass around it and reach the firing pin.

With the thumb safety off, the pistol can therefore be carried in absolute safety with chamber loaded and hammer down. In this condition the standard automatic pistol must be thumb cocked, or the slide must be pulled back before the weapon can be fired. In the PP, however, a pull on the trigger will cock and drop the hammer as in a double-action revolver. If the cartridge should misfire, a second pull will ordinarily discharge it. (However, if the cartridge is a dud, it is necessary to pull back the slide to eject it. In a revolver the second pull brings a new cartridge under the hammer.) When the cartridge fires, the slide is blown back and it automatically cocks the pistol for the next shot in standard automatic-pistol fashion.

The thumb safety serves the further purpose of permitting the pistol chamber to be loaded or unloaded without any possible danger of accidental discharge. If the safety is applied, the rear of the firing pin is completely blocked by the turning steel stem. When the slide is drawn back, the stem will automatically trip the de-cocking lever and cause the hammer to follow the slide down to uncocked position.

The magazine catch is a push button on the left side of the receiver. When the last shot has been fired the pistol stays open. Removing the empty magazine, inserting a loaded magazine in the grip, then pulling back and releasing the slide will automatically load the chamber so it is ready for instant action.

WALTHER PP AND PPK FIRING AND SAFETY SYSTEMS

With the pistol cocked and chamber loaded (Figure 2) the trigger (17) has been squeezed back by the trigger finger. As the trigger pivots on its pin, it draws the attached trigger bar (18) forward on the right hand side of the action. The tip of the curved trigger bar has a tit which passes through the shaped hole in the sear (6).

When the slide is fully home ready for firing, the trigger spring is forcing the trigger bar up so its upper section rests in a cut in the underside of the slide, while its projecting tit is caught above the projection in the hole in the sear. The sear is mounted on a pivot pin. Thus the forward movement of the trigger bar (18) can pull the sear up and ahead on its pin. The upper nose of the

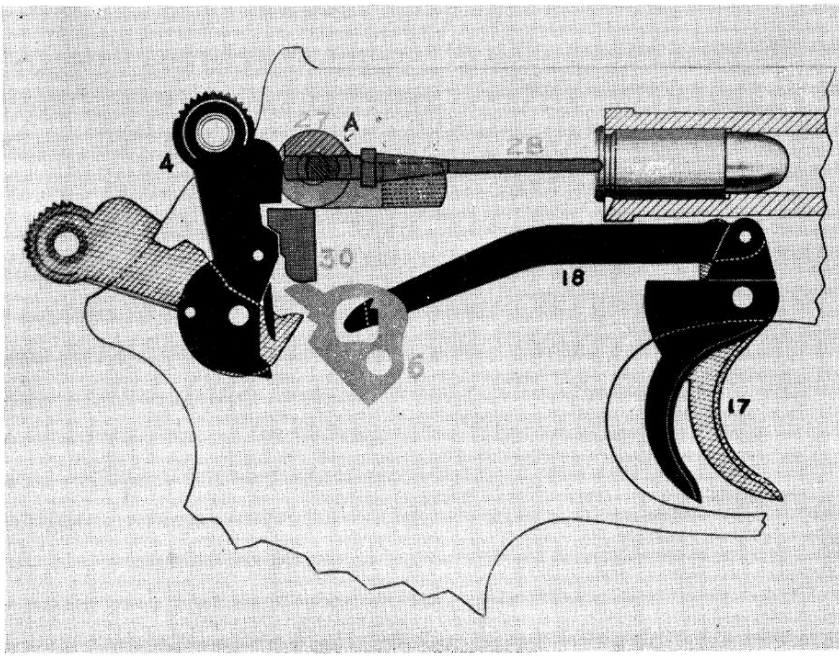


FIGURE 2. POSITION OF PARTS, PP AND PPK SYSTEMS.
This drawing shows relative positions of trigger and hammer from full cock to firing position.

sear forces the automatic locking bolt (30), which at rest is fitted closely against the hammer, up until its projection is in line with the cut in the face of the hammer (4). This action compresses a coil spring mounted above the locking bolt. As the sear notch is pulled out of engagement with the hammer, the compressed mainspring in the grip forces the hammer strut up. The strut rocks the hammer forward on its axis spin.

The thumb safety lever on the left side of the slide is horizontal when the pistol is ready for firing. In this position the thumb safety bolt (27) *does not lock the firing pin nor block the hammer path.* Hence the hammer strikes the firing pin and drives it ahead to fire the cartridge in the firing chamber.

Rearward Action

As the pistol fires and the bullet travels down the barrel, the rearward forces of the expanding powder gases force the cartridge case back against the face of the breechblock slide. The light bullet is well out of the barrel before the slide moves appreciably. As the slide moves back it compresses the recoil spring around the barrel. The front end of this coil spring is pushed by the supporting shoulder in the front end of the slide, and is compressed against the shoulder in which the barrel is mounted. As the slide moves back, its solid surface on the right side forces the trigger bar (18) down and compresses its spring. The tit on the trigger bar is thereby lowered in the hole in the sear, so it loses its ability to pull the sear.

Meanwhile, the slide drives the hammer back on its axis pin. The attached hammer strut compresses the mainspring around it against a platform within the grip. A nose on the hammer contacts and lifts the sear nose until the sear notch catches and holds the hammer back.

The extractor hooked into the groove in the empty cartridge case draws the case with it during rearward slide movement. When the ejection opening in the right side of the slide is fully exposed, the bottom of the cartridge case is struck sharply against the ejector piece. This frees it from the extractor and hurls it

well out of the pistol. The magazine spring forces a fresh cartridge up in line as the slide passes over it.

Forward Movement

After rearward slide travel is halted by the slide bringing up against its abutment on the receiver, the recoil spring asserts itself and pulls the slide forward in its channels in the receiver. The breechblock face of the slide strips the top cartridge from between the lips of the magazine (which are folded at the rear but open at the front) and pushes it up and into the firing chamber. The extractor hook snaps over the head of the cartridge case and engages in the extracting groove therein.

Note that the pistol still cannot fire until pressure on the trigger is released, and trigger is again deliberately pulled. The trigger bar (18) at this point is still down so its tit is below the line where it can draw the sear (6) forward to let the hammer fall. When pressure on the trigger is momentarily released, the trigger bar spring pushes the trigger bar up until its upper surface rises into a channel in the slide above it. The tit is then elevated to the point where it can pull the sear fully forward. The coil spring above the locking bolt (30) forces the bolt down so that its surface is against the lower portion of the hammer. This prevents the hammer (4) from reaching the firing pin (27). Hence if the hammer is hit or the pistol is dropped, accidental discharge cannot occur.

Rest Position Ready for Firing (Figure 3)

The trigger (17) is fully forward ready for the pull. The trigger bar (18) is supported and its engagement tit is hooked through the sear hole at the point where it can pull the sear forward on its axis pin. The automatic safety bolt (30) is positively blocking the hammer from touching the firing pin head (by 27).

The lever of the thumb safety bar (indicated by dotted lines) is in horizontal position leaving the firing pin (28) free to move when struck.

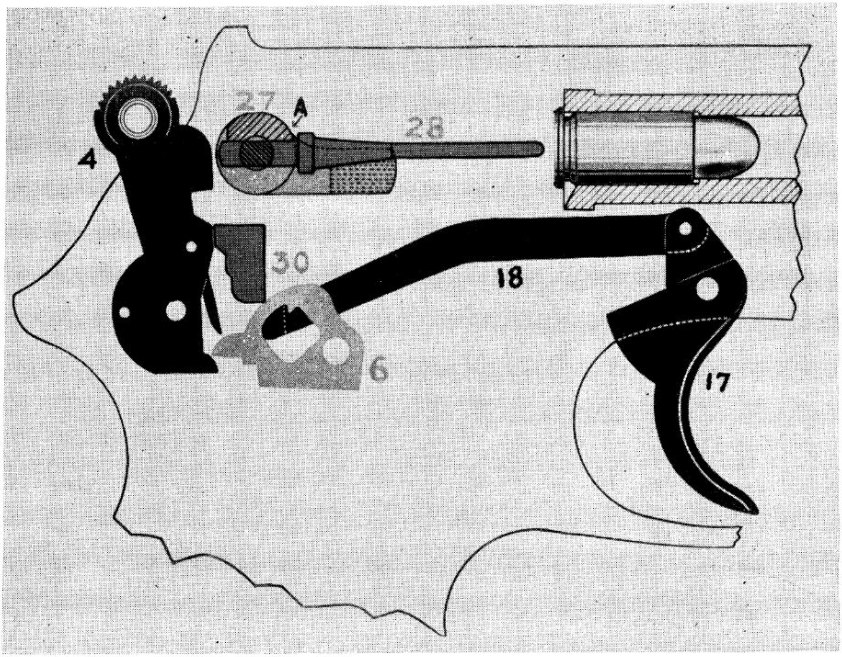


FIGURE 3. POSITION OF PARTS, PP AND PPK SYSTEMS (Continued).
This drawing shows the firing and safety parts with hammer down ready for a double-action pull. Pistol is safe—note position and function of part number 30 in this illustration.

The Double-Action Pull. With the pistol in this position, the arm differs from usual automatic pistols in that while it is perfectly safe, *it is not necessary to thumb cock it before firing.* Pulling the trigger (17) will draw the trigger bar (18) ahead, causing it to raise the sear (6). The sear will simultaneously raise the automatic safety bolt (30) to the position where it faces the cut in the hammer; and will bear against the small lifter seen protruding from the hammer, thereby forcing the hammer back to cock.

When the automatic bolt is in position to let the hammer strike the firing pin, the hammer lifter will slip off the curved face of the sear. This lets the hammer fall and hit the firing pin.

Rearward Action. From this point on, the exploding powder gases operate the pistol to cock and reload as already described.

Misfires. Should the cartridge fail to fire, another pull on the trigger will strike the firing pin against it for a second try. In standard automatic pistols it would be necessary to draw the slide back or cock the hammer by hand to do this.

Rest Position-Safe (Figure 4)

While trigger (17), trigger bar (18), and sear (6) are all hooked up ready for action, the automatic safety bolt (30) is in position to prevent full forward movement of the hammer (4). If the chamber is loaded and the hammer back, pushing down on the thumbpiece of the hand safety will bring a surface of the thumb safety bolt (A) against a shoulder on the firing pin (28)

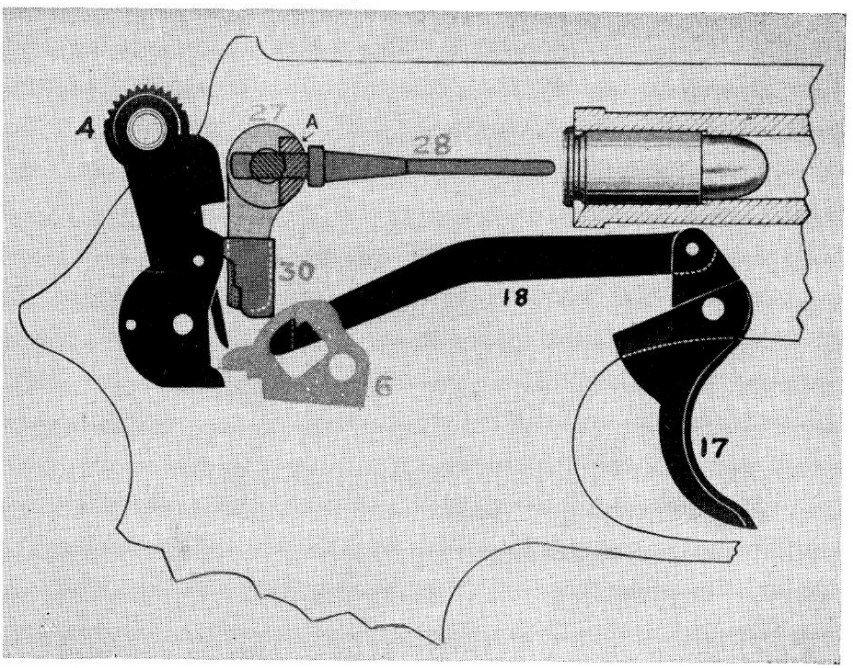


FIGURE 4. POSITION OF PARTS, PP AND PPK SYSTEMS (Continued).
This drawing shows the firing and safety parts with the hammer down, but with the thumb safety applied to afford double protection against accidental discharge. Note firing pin blocked at "A," the block against the hammer at part number 30, and the block interposed between hammer and firing pin rear by safety lever, part number 27. No accidental or intentional blow on the hammer can fire the cartridge in the chamber.

forcing it further inside the slide. Continuing down pressure on the thumbpiece further revolves the bolt to bring solid surfaces down around the head of the firing pin to prevent the falling hammer from reaching the firing pin. At that point the still turning bolt strikes the decocking lever on the left side of the action. This releases the hammer permitting it to fall safely on the face of the steel bolt in front of the firing pin head. Releasing and then reapplying the thumb safety double-locks the pistol.

WALTHER 9mm MP MODEL

The MP model Walther is one of the "outlaw" weapons made in Germany in the early 1920's in direct violation of the League of Nations ruling concerning German arms manufacture.

On Page 102 of the official British *Textbook of Small Arms 1929* will be found the following statement: "Under the conditions of the Treaty of Versailles the German and Austrian factories are forbidden to manufacture or sell pistols or revolvers of the military 9mm caliber. They have since produced a number of well designed simple and efficient self-loading pistols of .32 inch and 7.63mm. In many cases the dimensions of these new pistols are such that they will accommodate a 9mm barrel and magazine without material alteration of the manufacturing plant." (Specifically, the Luger 7.65mm and the Mauser military 7.63mm pistols can be converted with little difficulty to 9mm Luger-German *Pistole* '08 caliber.)

One of the contributions of the Walther plant to rearming in defiance of treaties and regulations was the development of the MP model shown. Walther was authorized to manufacture pistols for police and general protective use. Once these designs (notably the PP and PPK) were perfected, the manufacturers turned their attention to applying the principles to military arms. One result was the MP model. The serial number of the pistol shown (5009—not visible in the photograph) suggests perhaps the arm was in general production in violation of regulations.

This pistol was never advertised nor listed and its very existence was unknown to Allied intelligence organizations. So

COMPARISON OF MP AND PP MODELS.

The Military Pistol (MP) and PP Models are compared in this photograph. Note that the MP has a lanyard swivel. The PP shown here is unusual in that it has a bottom magazine release catch instead of the side receiver push-button release commonly encountered in this model.

Although the MP Model in this illustration has a side button magazine release catch, many HP and P-38 models for military use had the release catch at the bottom of the butt as an outgrowth of complaints from the battlefields that nervous troops at times ejected magazines unintentionally with the side button release.

far as can be established, this is the only place in which the pistol has ever been shown in a photograph.

Except for size, weight, and shape as required for the use of the powerful 9mm Luger cartridge, the pistol is identical with the PP model. It is a blowback pistol depending entirely on weight of moving members and strength of its extra heavy recoil spring to keep the breech closed at the instant of firing. The pistol has the standard double-action mechanism and the safety features discussed under the PP and PPK models.

Mr. Sidney Aberman of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania now owns the MP model illustrated. It weighs 32.5 ounces empty; barrel length is 5 inches; width of slide: .985 inches, width of grip: 1.25 inches. The magazine is a detachable box design holding up to eight rounds.

The MP measures 8 inches in overall length. The slide measures .985 inch at its widest part and weighs about 12 ounces. The recoil spring is a spiral with 17½ turns of .645 inch diameter.

The safety system is the same as the PP, with a manual safety which revolves twin lugs into the path of the hammer to prevent it from reaching the firing pin when it falls as the thumb lever acts to free the sear.

It is entirely possible that the MP model was never placed in quantity production because the action was not strong enough to handle the 9mm cartridge safely. Since specimens of the MP are so rare, it is quite probable that the serial numbering system reflected in the specimen shown is not a reliable indication of quantity production.

While it is safe to use this pistol with 9mm Luger ammunition *when the pistol is in perfect order and the spring is powerful,* it must be emphasized that the breech pressure of this cartridge is *nearly double* that of the U.S. Government .45 Automatic; and that a blowback action is always potentially dangerous with such pressure. The Walther slide construction and mounting is as safe as any ever made but in continued use this model will be battered and injured over a period of time. While the slide cannot be blown off the receiver, the breech may open while pres-

sure is still high, resulting in damage to the slide and in extraction and ejection troubles.

If you encounter one of these pistols, it is suggested that you consider it primarily a collector's piece. It is very rare.

WALTHER MODEL PPK

The Walther PP won immediate acceptance among Continental law-enforcement agencies. It was also a popular weapon among less law-abiding units, such as the S.A., S.S., Gestapo, and the S. D. The PP was primarily a belt-holster weapon. The secret police, undercover agents, detectives, and other plain-clothes operators liked the double-action feature of the PP but desired a smaller weapon with PP characteristics which could be easily concealed.

The PPK *(Polizei Pistole, Kriminal)* was Fritz Walther's re-

WALTHER MODEL PPK.
This pistol was introduced in 1931 and became a favorite pocket pistol of the Gestapo and other law (?) enforcement agencies. This pre-war commercial model has a blued finish and plastic grips. Caliber .32 ACP was most popular.

sponse to the demand for a autoloading pistol version of our snub-nose revolvers like the Colt Detective Special, Banker's Special, Colt Cobra, Colt Agent, and S&W Chief.

The PPK was first marketed in 1931. While the most popular caliber was .32 ACP, it was also sold throughout the world in calibers .380 ACP and .22 L.R. This is merely a shorter and lighter version of the original *Polizeipistole,* or PP model. The success of the PP was so instantaneous that a demand arose for a true pocket size pistol of the same type. The PP itself was intended as a belt or holster pistol. The PPK means *Poliziepistole Kriminal,* indicating that the arm is intended for detectives and other police not in uniform who need a smaller weapon which can be readily concealed about the person.

As with the Model PP, copies of the Model PPK have been indicated as originating through post-war Hungarian manufacture in 7.65mm Browning caliber with other copies made in 6.35mm Browning for police use (particularly by women police).

Basic Data, PPK

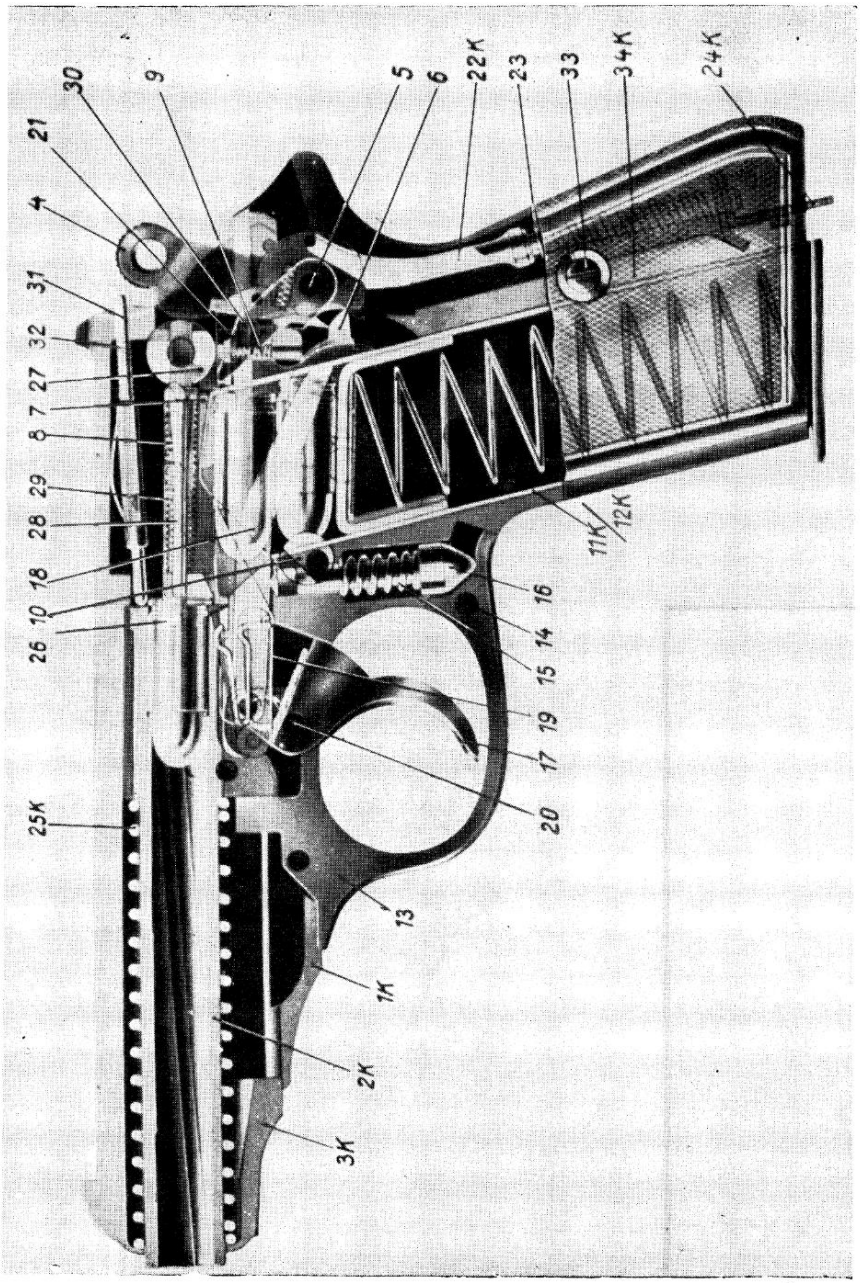
When Introduced: 1931.
When Discontinued: 1945 (manufacture later resumed in France).
Caliber: .22 L.R. (5.6mm), .25 ACP (6.35mm Browning), .32 ACP (7.65mm Browning), and .380 ACP (9mm Browning Short).
Size: Length: 5.91 inches (.32 ACP and .380 ACP); height: 4.00 inches; width (slide): 0.86 inches; width (grip): 1.00 inches.
Weight: 18.84 ounces (.32 ACP).
Magazine: Detachable box, 7 rounds (.32 ACP).
Barrel Length: 3.27 inches (.32 ACP and .380 ACP).
Lands: 6.
Rifling: One/9.45 inches (as compared to 8.27 in PP).
Twist: Right.

Other data including firing mechanism and safeties, same as for Model PP. Differences between the PP and PPK models are principally in dimensions. They vary in height, width, weight, overall length, barrel length, and magazine capacity.

The .32 ACP was the most popular caliber in both the PP and PPK Models. The .25 ACP is rare in either model. There is only one reason for the existence of this nigh-worthless cartridge and

COMPARISON OF PP AND PPK MODELS.

Model PPK is at the top and slightly smaller in size than the engraved Model PP at the bottom. PP or *Polizei Pistole* stands for "police pistol" and PPK or *Polizei Pistole Kriminal* represents "police pistol criminal." The PPK was supposed to have been primarily for the use of criminal police (detectives) as opposed to political police, however, the latter also used the PPK in German-occupied countries of the 1930's and early 1940's.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3K

FIGURE 5. CROSS-SECTION OF PP WALTHER.

The PPK was identical except for overall size. The letter "K" indicates special parts for Model PPK. Other parts are the same for both models.

MODEL PP AND PPK PARTS LIST.

(This listing may also be used with Figure 5A.)

PART	PP	PPK
Frame, complete with barrel	1	1 K
Barrel	2	2 K
Slide	3	3 K
Hammer, complete	4	4
Hammer axle pin	5	5
Sear (cocking piece)	6	6
Ejector, with spring	7	7
Extractor piece and spring	8	8
Hammer arrester spring, with bush	9	9
Magazine catch and spring	10	10
Magazine	11	11 K
Magazine with grip extension (not shown in phantom)	..	12 K
Trigger guard	13	13
Trigger guard hinge pin	14	14
Trigger guard spring	15	15
Guide pin to trigger guard spring	16	16
Trigger	17	17
Trigger bar	18	18
Trigger spring	19	19
Trigger axle pin	20	20
Unlocking lever (release lever)	21	21
Hammer striker shank	22	22 K
Hammer spring	23	23
Counter bearing to hammer spring	24	24 K
Recoil spring (slide return spring —3A in parts display, Figure 5A)	25	25 K
Extractor (phantom shows cartridge)	26	26
Safety lever, complete with arbor	27	27
Firing pin spring	28*	28*
Firing pin	29*	29*
Hammer locking piece	30	30
Signal pin	31	31
Signal pin spring	32	32
Grip plate screw	33	33
Grip, plate, right (see 34 in parts display, Figure 5A)	..	..
Grip plate, left (see 34 in parts display, Figure 5A)	..	34 K

* In phantom view, firing pin is number 28; its spring 29.

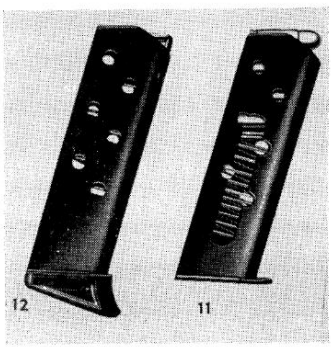
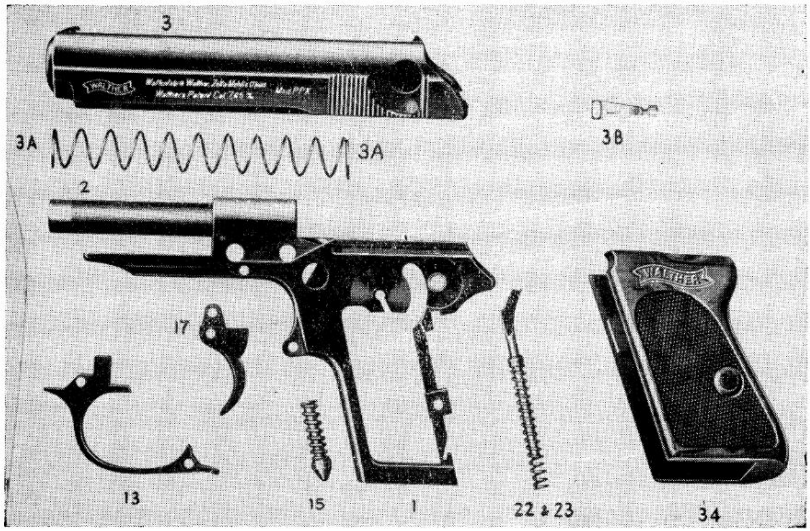
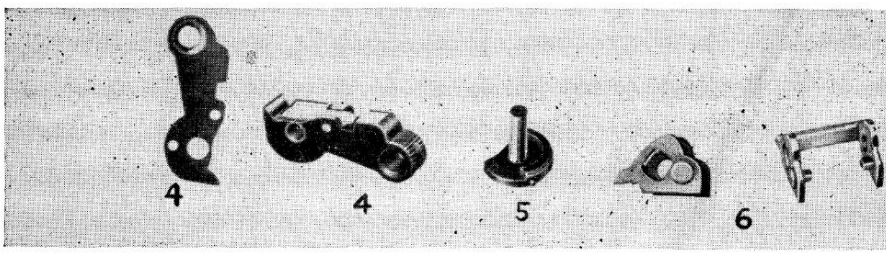
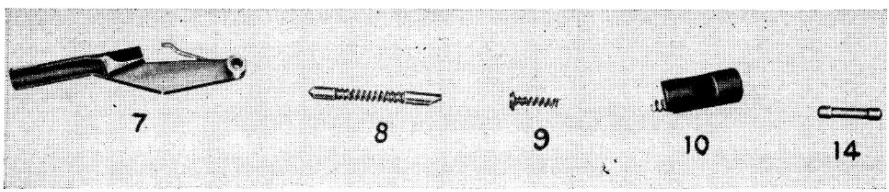


FIGURE 5A. WALTHER MODEL PP AND PPK PARTS.







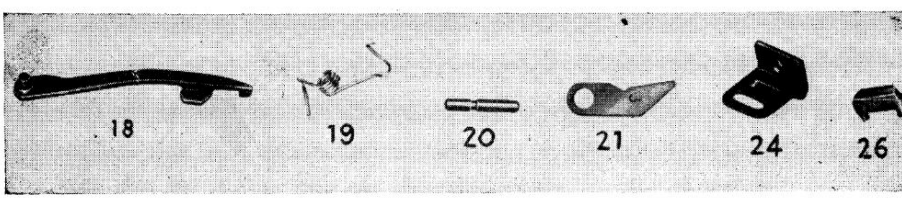


FIGURE 5A. (Continued.)
Use the Parts List to identify the parts appearing both here and in Figure 5.
Note detachable luminous sight here shown as 3B.

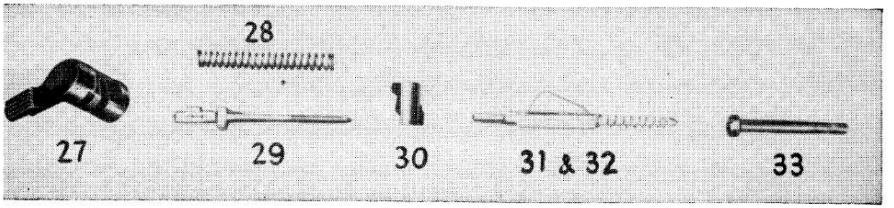


FIGURE 5A. (Continued.)

that is the ability to chamber a small-dimensioned lightweight repeating pistol for the caliber. The PP Model .25 ACP weighed 25.21 ounces. It is difficult to consider a pistol of this weight a true pocket model so if a shooter wants to carry a pistol of that size he will do well to tote a heavier and more effective caliber. Buyer preference for more effective cartridges undoubtedly influenced the small sale and low production of the .25 ACP in either the PP or PPK.

Military Issue. In the common type issued during World War II as a substitute standard and bearing the German Army proof, the weights, lengths, and barrel lengths differed considerably with the time and place of manufacture. Barrel lengths averaged about 3.94 inches, overall lengths about 6.19 inches, and weights with special grips and magazine extensions ran as high as 34 ounces.

Most notable among the minor variances in design between the models is the grip. In the PP the grip is steel, being merely part of the receiver forging in standard fashion. In the PPK the grip may also be this type, but in many models it is a three-sided shaped piece of wood or plastic fitted around the conventional grip-section of the receiver. This special grip permits a wide variety of styles and thicknesses to fit different hands and to alter the hang and pitch of the pistol. Magazines with special plastic bottoms and finger rest extensions are commonly found with the PPK. They were also made for the PP to some degree, but were never common.

Chapter 4

Walther Models AP and HP

MODEL AP, a hammerless forerunner of the later HP and P-38, was a very limited production model. It is reported that no more than two hundred were manufactured. Most *Armeepistolen* were caliber 9mm Parabellum (Luger) but a very few .45 ACP models were made. Sidney Aberman of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania owns a .45 ACP *Armeepistole*. All AP models examined in research were Walther commercial models and carried the Walther banner. The quality and craftsmanship on these AP's were on a par with other first-rate Walther pistols.

WALTHER 9mm HAMMERLESS *ARMEE PISTOLE.*
This was the ancestor of the HP *(Heeres Pistole)* and P-38. A very few were made in .45 ACP.

.45 CALIBER MARKINGS APPEAR ON THIS HAMMERLESS ARMY PISTOL.

With the coming of war the Walther plant concentrated on the exposed hammer models, notably the P-38. The *Armeepistole* has a hammer concealed by the slide as in our Colt .32 automatic. In dimensions, weights, and general exterior design it follows the exposed hammer model very closely. In interior construction it differs mainly in the style of the barrel locking pin, and in the type of automatic safety. A comparison of the detail drawings will show at once that the automatic safety is patterned after that in the PP and PPK models; while the firing pin and the thumb safety have been considerably modified from the P-38 type.

The pistol shoots the standard Luger 9mm *(Pistole 08)* cartridge used in the Luger and the P-38 and, except that it cannot be cocked by thumb, it is loaded and fired in the same manner as the P-38.

The quality of materials and workmanship in all specimens of this model examined in research has been the highest prewar standard. All bore the Walther name and insigne on the left of the slide, many were made of duralumin to save weight, and some had long barrels and detachable shoulder stocks.

Basic Data, Model AP *(ARMEE Pistole)*

Caliber: 9mm Parabellum (Luger).
Size: Length: 8.55 inches; height: 5.3 inches.
Weight (steel frame): 28 ounces; (duralumin frame): 22.7 ounces.
Magazine: Detachable box; release catch at bottom of grip; 8 rounds.
Barrel Length: 4.9 inches.
Lands: 6.
Twist: Right.
Firing Mechanism: Internal hammer, single-action trigger, flying (independent) firing pin.
Recoil Spring: Twin coil springs with accompanying guides mounted in guide channels, one on each side of receiver (over trigger guard). Springs are compressed between two projections in forward end of slide and their respective receiver seats.
Signal Pin: Signal pin—as in earlier PP and PPK models and as in later HP and P-38 models—projects through rear of slide (breech) when chamber is loaded.

Pistol Locked and Unlocked

Figure 6, upper, shows the pistol locked and ready for firing. A section of the slide has been cut away to show the method of locking the barrel to the breechblock slide at the instant of high breech pressure.

The light metal locking block is so shaped that wings on each side fit into corresponding cuts in the slide and in the underside of the barrel forging where the block is mounted. When the block is in this locked position, its lower surface rests on a shelf in the receiver below it. A movable pin floats in the bottom of the barrel forging below the cartridge chamber, its point resting against the rear surface of the locking block.

Note that when the pistol is locked the slide is fully forward, extending to the front shoulder on the barrel forging.

Figure 6, bottom, shows the pistol at the instant of unlocking. As the cartridge is fired and the bullet speeds down the barrel, the rearward action of the expanding powder gases thrusting back against the head of the case transmits energy to the breechblock face of the slide.

The slide starts back carrying the barrel locked securely to it by the locking block. This prevents the action from opening

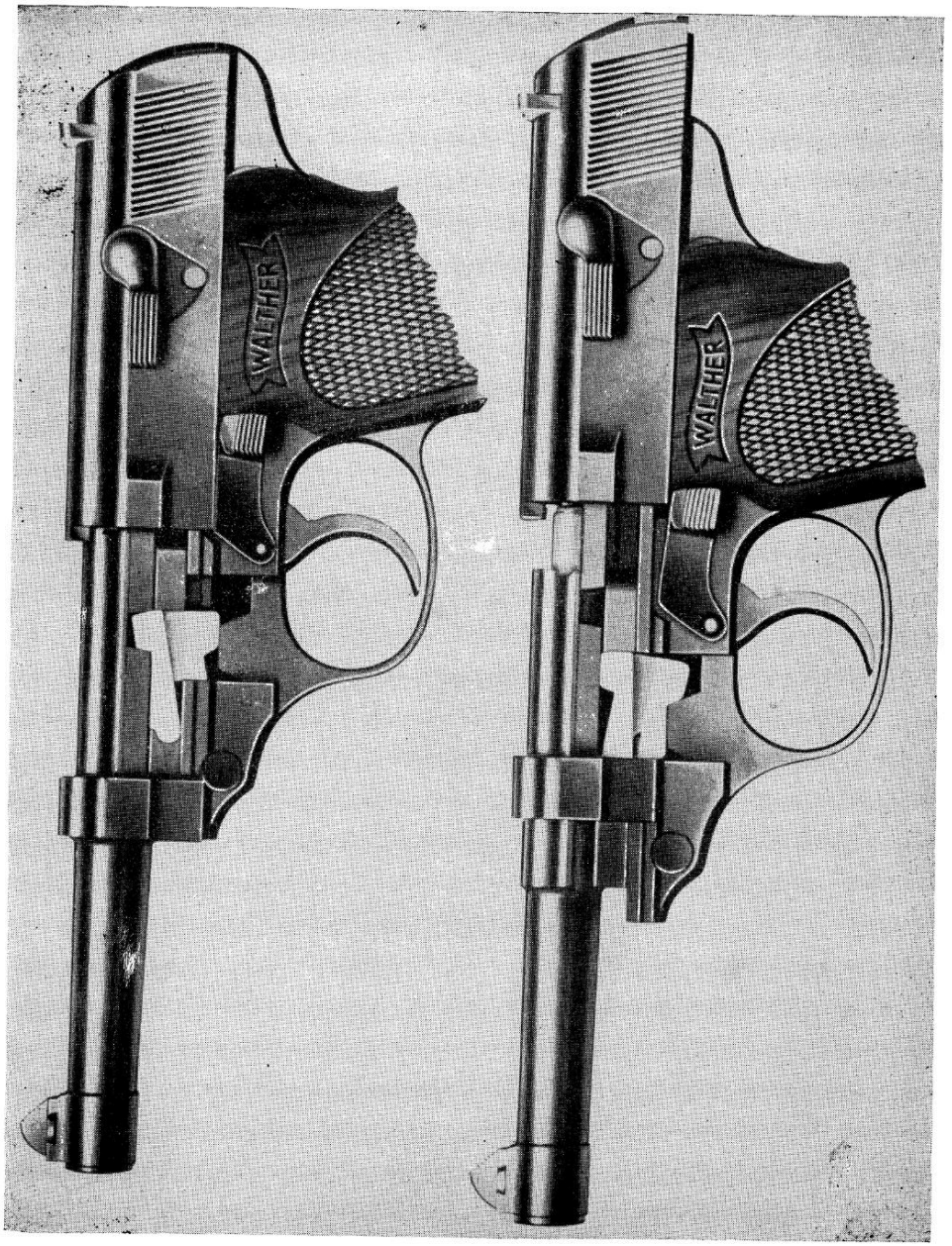


FIGURE 6. LOCKED AND UNLOCKED POSITIONS—BARREL AND BREECHBLOCK SLIDE.

The *Armee Pistole* was the first locked-breech Walther. Locked breech position is shown in the upper photo—unlocked breech position in the lower. Only 200 (approximately) *Armee Pistolen* were made.

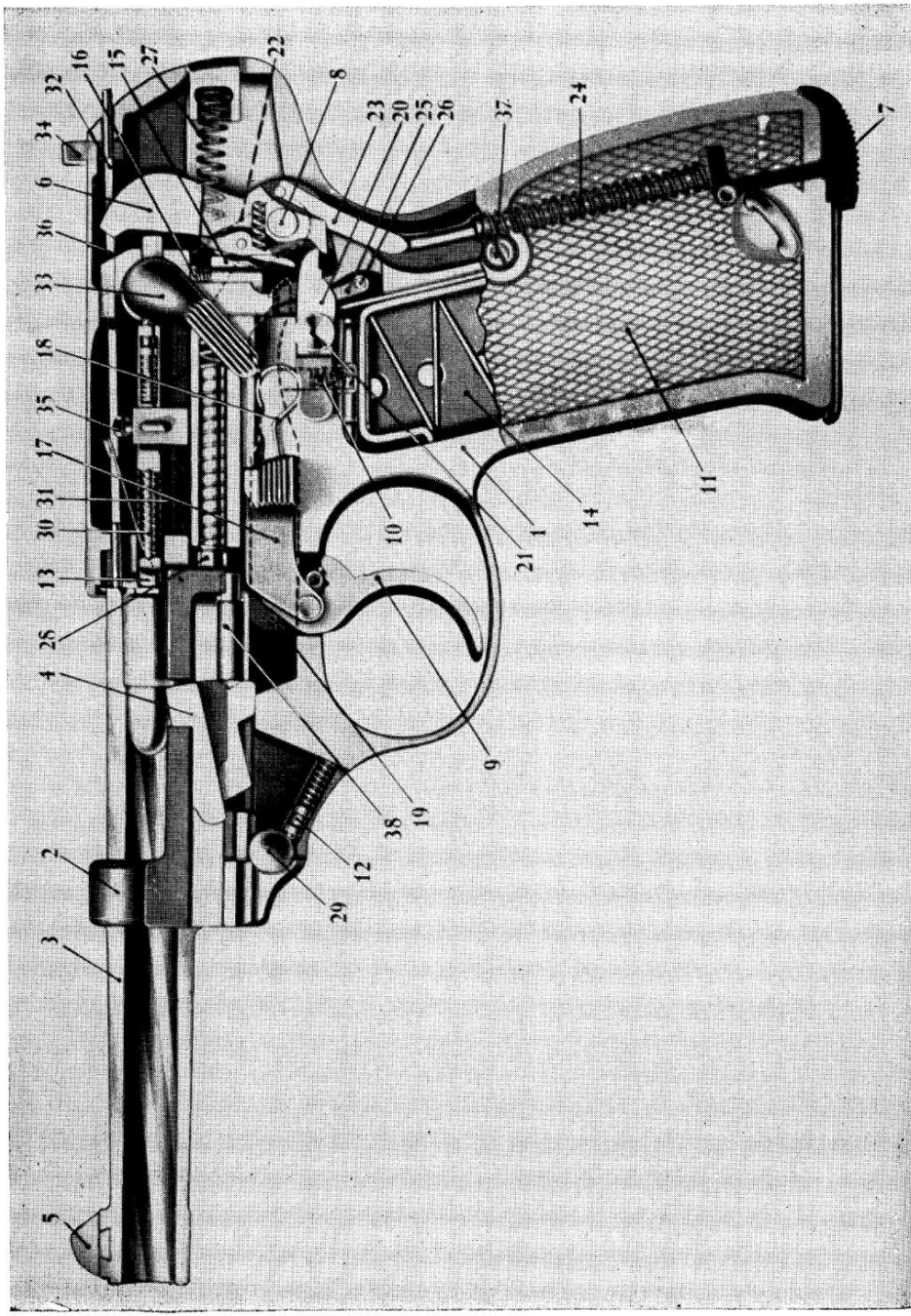

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FIGURE 6A. DETAIL DRAWING, HAMMERLESS ARMY PISTOL.

The chamber is loaded, the thumb safety has been pushed to lock the firing pin, then drop the hammer safely on the loaded chamber. The thumb safety has then been pushed "Off" to interpose the automatic hammer lock between the firing pin and hammer; then reapplied to again manually lock the firing pin itself.

The Parts List below may be used in conjunction with Figures 6A through 6D.*

PART	NUMBER
Receiver	1
Breechblock slide	2
Barrel (forged and machined with travel guides and lock mounted)	3
Removable locking block	4
Front sight	5
Hammer (complete with double-action lifter)	6
Magazine catch	7
Hammer axis pin	8
Trigger (complete with spring)	9
Trigger return spring assembly	10
Stock (2)	11
Barrel bolt spring assembly	12
Extractor	13
Magazine complete	14
Automatic hammer safety assembly	15
Hammer safety spring positioner	16
Slide release	17
Slide release spring	18
Trigger bar	19
Sear	20
Sear axis pin (2 pieces)	21
Sear release lever	22
and hammer strut complete	23
with mainspring	24
Ejector	25
Ejector pin	26
Recoil spring (2)	27
Recoil spring guides (2)	28
Barrel locking bolt	29
Firing pin	30
Firing pin spring	31
Signal pin	32
Thumb safety	33
Rear sight	34
Extractor pin	35
Signal pin spring	36*
Grip screw	37
Locking block release pin	38

* The underside of the slide is numbered 36 in Figure 6D.

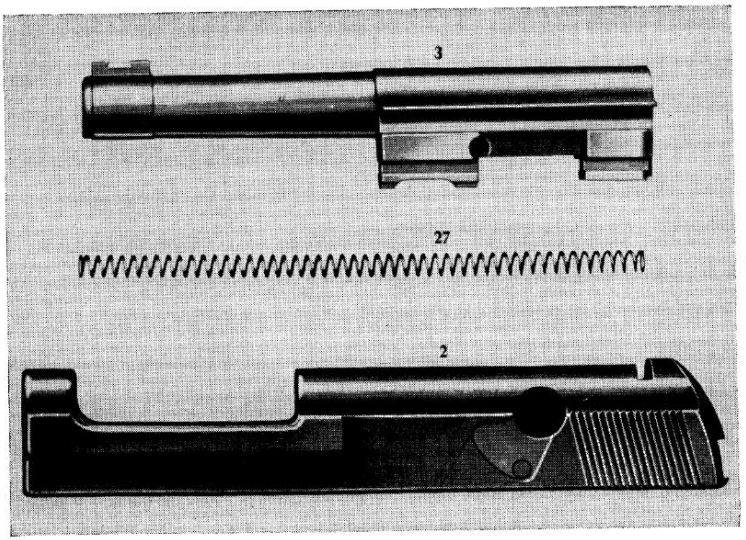

FIGURE 6B. BARREL, RECOIL SPRING, AND SLIDE, HAMMERLESS ARMY MODEL.

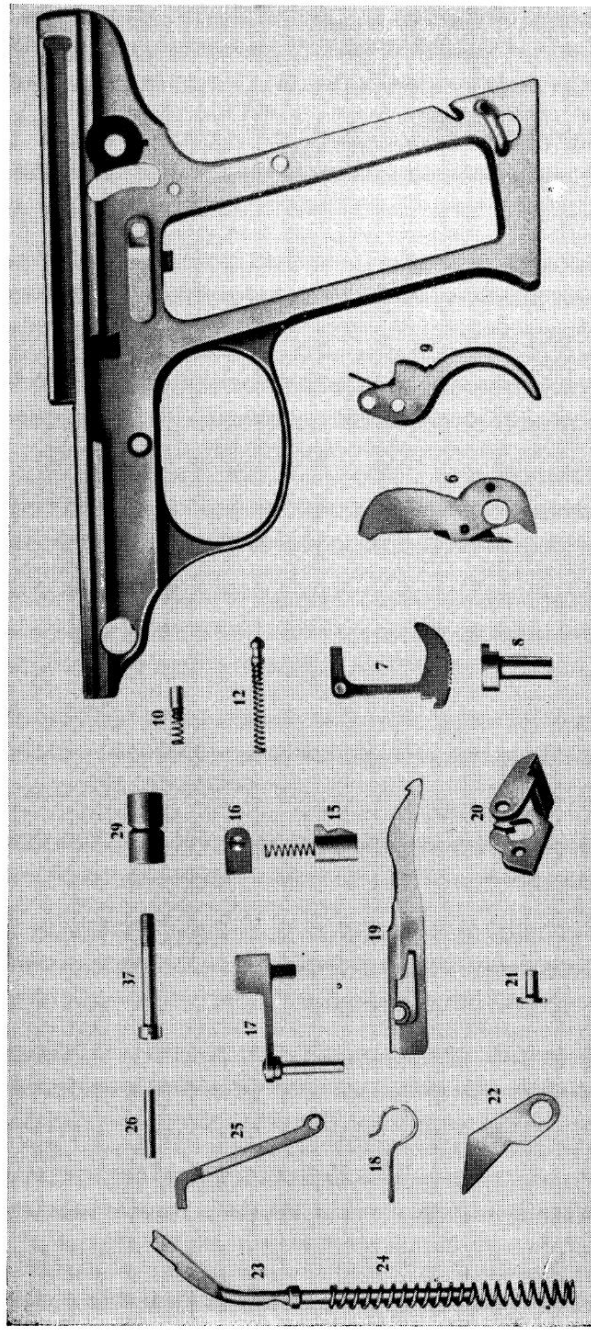

FIGURE 6C. RECEIVER AND LOCKWORK, HAMMERLESS ARMY MODEL.
(See Parts List, Figure 6A.)

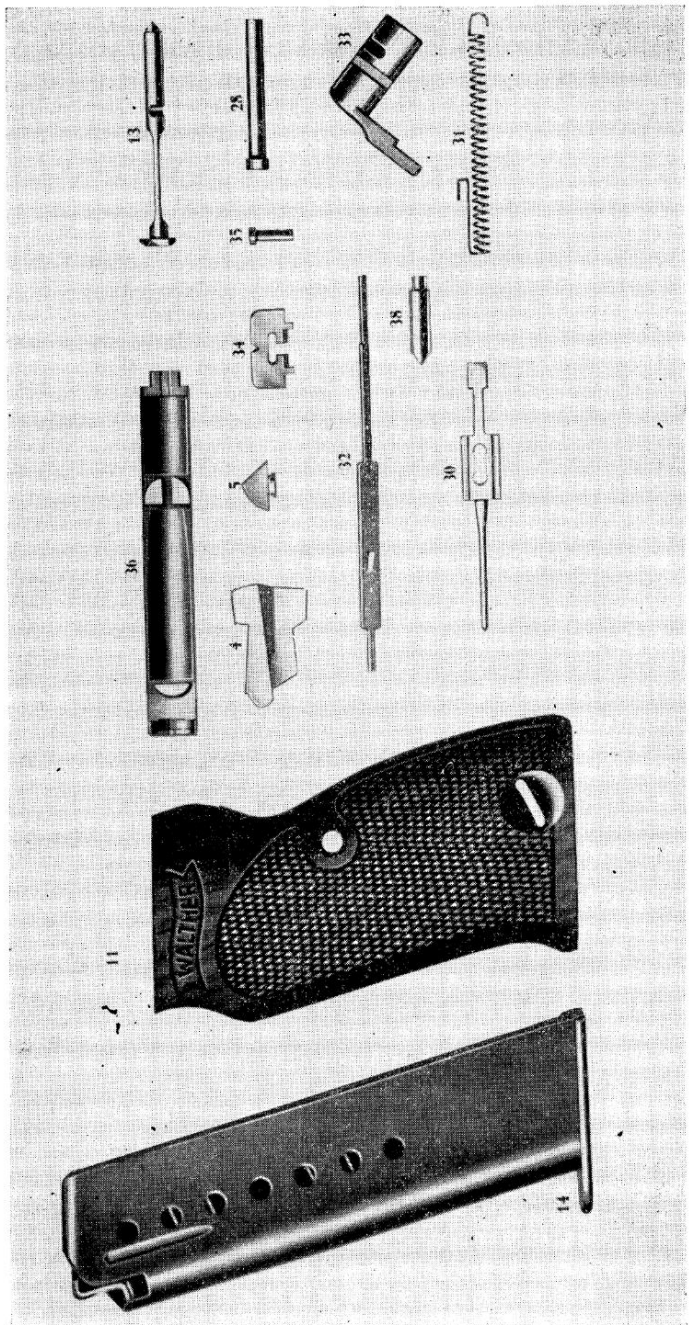

FIGURE 6D. MAGAZINE, GRIP, LOCK, AND SLIDE ASSEMBLY, HAMMERLESS ARMY MODEL. (See Parts List, Figure 6A.)

while pressure is high. When the pin projecting from the recoiling barrel strikes the stop machined for it in the receiver, it is pushed ahead in its hole in the barrel forging below the chamber. At this point the locking block is near the edge of its shelf in the receiver. The unlocking pin pressing against the sloped surface of the locking block, pushes it down the cam face into the cut in the receiver. The locking wings on the block are free at this point to leave the slide. The barrel hits its stop and its travel halts.

The stop position of the barrel may be seen by comparing the front end of the barrel shoulder (which carries the forward travel guides) with the tip of the receiver in which it travels.

The unlocked slide continues to the rear to extract, eject and cock as described for the P-38.

The recoil springs mounted in the slide function to reload as in the P-38; as does the magazine assembly.

When the last shot has been fired, a step on the magazine platform rises to push up a stop which holds the slide open to warn that the pistol is empty. Pushing down the thumbpiece seen above the trigger releases this stop and lets the slide go forward on the empty chamber. If a loaded magazine has been inserted in place of the empty, pressing this stop automatically loads the chamber ready for use.

The Double Safety of the Walther Hammerless Army Pistol

See Figure 7. The trigger (9) has been drawn back, causing it to pivot on its axis pin and compress its spring. It has drawn the attached trigger bar (19) forward. The tit on the end of the trigger bar passing through the hole in the sear (20) has rocked the sear up and ahead on its axis pin to pull the sear nose out of engagement with the cocked hammer. The mainspring thrusting up the hammer strut has driven the hammer (6) up and ahead on its axis pin. Meanwhile the upper arm of the sear has elevated the automatic hammer lock (15) until the cut in its surface is high enough to receive the hammer.

The firing pin (30) was free to move since the cutaway sur-

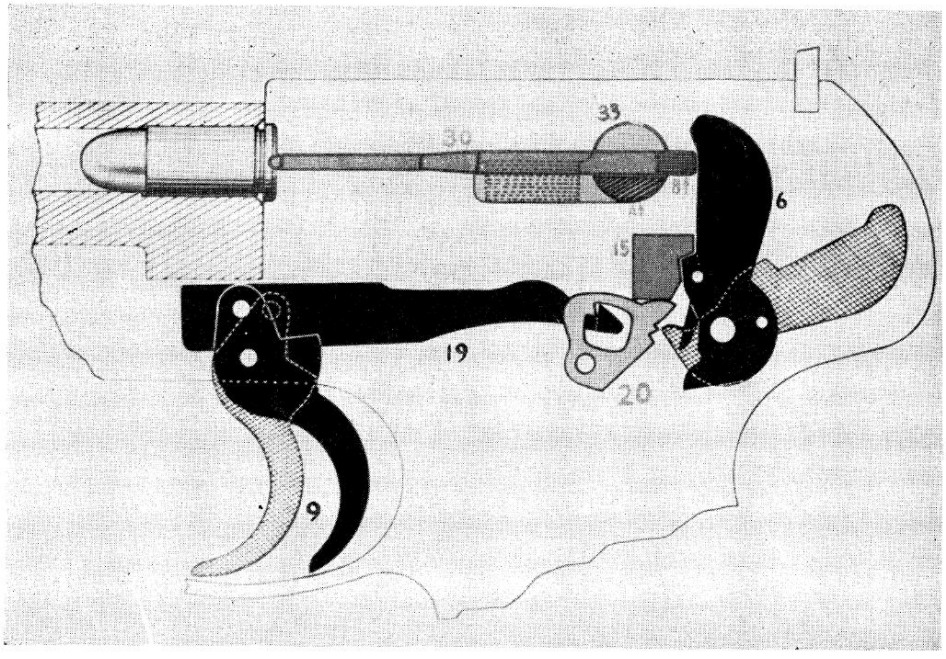

FIGURE 7. HAMMERLESS ARMY PISTOL AT INSTANT OF FIRING.
Drawing also shows the position of the respective parts at full cock position.

face (A1) on the face of the thumb safety (33) was in horizontal position. In this position the hammer could strike the projecting head of the firing pin (B1) driving it ahead to fire the cartridge.

Recoil of the slide automatically forces down the trigger bar to break sear engagement. The recoiling slide also cocks and rides over the hammer which is caught and held by the sear nose.

When the recoil springs draw the slide forward to closed position to reload the chamber and lock the arm, firing another shot is impossible until the trigger is momentarily released. As the trigger spring pushes the trigger forward, the trigger bar is able to rise into a channel in the underside of the slide. At this point the tit on the end of the trigger bar is high enough in the sear hole that it can engage properly to permit leverage for the next trigger pull. The coil spring above the automatic hammer lock

drives that lock down to again automatically intercept the hammer to keep it from accidentally reaching the firing pin when the sear moves as trigger grip is relaxed momentarily and lock can thrust lifting arm down.

In the position shown in Figure 8, the pistol is perfectly safe against accidental discharge, but is ready for firing merely by pulling the trigger. The trigger (9) is ready for the pull. The connected trigger bar (19) is in firing position with its rear tip engaged in the upper section of the hole in the sear (20). The automatic hammer locking bolt (15) is in its low position, where it positively prevents the hammer from reaching the firing pin head (B1). The double-action cocking spur on the sear is in contact with the tip of the hammer lifter attached to the lower front of the hammer (6). Since the thumb safety (33) is in

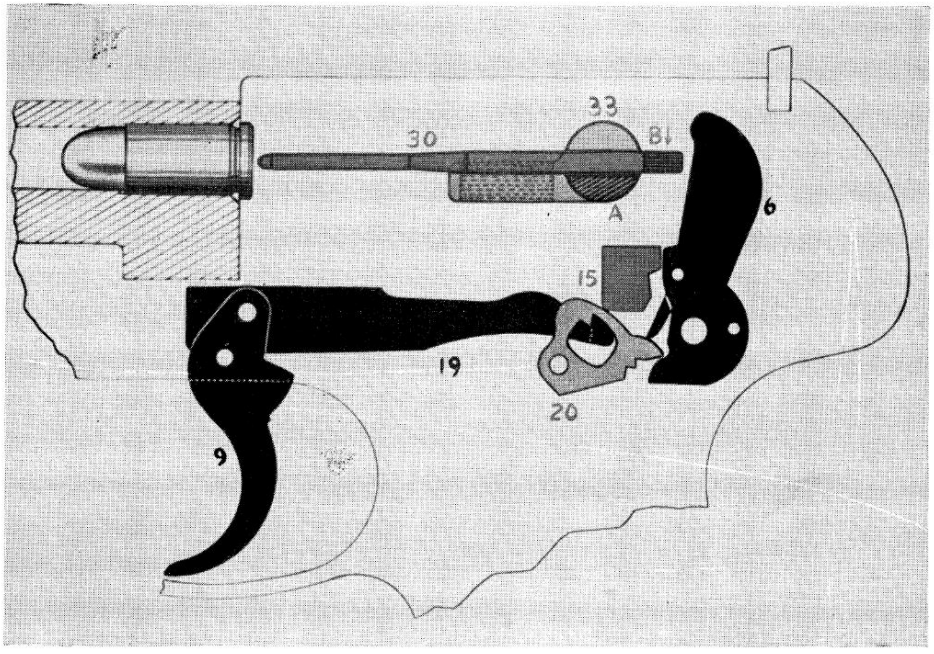

FIGURE 8. WALTHER HAMMERLESS ARMY PISTOL (Continued).
Drawing shows the chamber loaded and hammer down. The thumb safety, after being used to lower the hammer automatically, has been pushed up again to the "Off" or horizontal position.

horizontal or "Off" position, its inner surface is not locking the firing pin. The firing pin (30) is therefore free to move forward when struck.

A pull on the trigger will draw the trigger bar (19) ahead, causing it to pull the sear (20) up and to the front on its pivot pins. As it turns the sear (20) will lift the automatic hammer locking bolt (15) until its cut is high enough to let the hammer travel all the way forward to reach the firing pin. At the same time the sear (20) will also push the hammer lifter causing it to rock the hammer back and compress the mainspring. As the hammer passes full cock the sear will slip out of lifter contact allowing the hammer to fall.

To reach the position shown in Figure 9 it was necessary for the slide to be pulled back once by hand (or driven back by firing a cartridge) if the safety was "Off." Either action

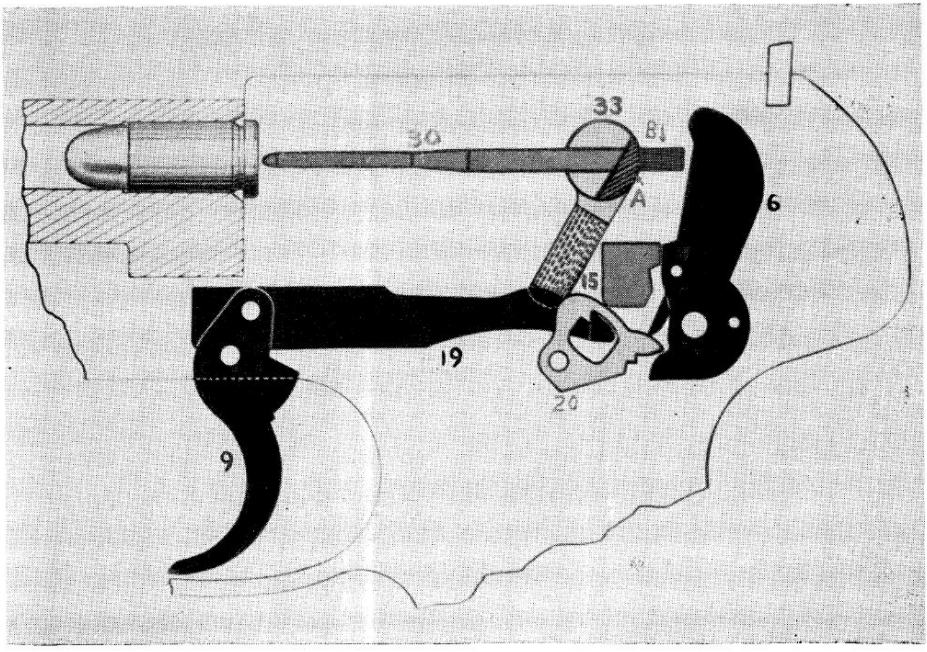

FIGURE 9. HAMMERLESS ARMY PISTOL (Continued).
The pistol with chamber loaded and hammer down, but with the thumb safety applied to provide a double safety.

leaves a cartridge in the chamber when the magazine is loaded. The act of forcing the slide to the rear cocks and rides over the hammer, leaving the pistol ready to fire as the slide closes and the trigger is momentarily released.

Pushing the thumb safety (33) revolves the attached bolt within the slide. This initial movement locks a solid bolt surface (A) behind the head of the firing pin (B1) to prevent movement of the firing pin if it is struck. Continued pressure on the thumbpiece completes the revolution of the bolt, causing it to press the sear release which in turn withdraws the sear from hammer engagement. When the hammer is down and trigger forward, the automatic hammer locking bolt (15) is thrust down by its spring to prevent the hammer from reaching the firing pin.

Pushing the safety up to horizontal frees the firing pin, leaving the pistol as shown in Figure 8 ready for a pull on the trigger. When the thumb safety is applied and the slide then drawn back over a loaded magazine to load the chamber, the hammer will follow the slide safely down. The proper surface on the thumb safety bolt will depress the sear release automatically, thereby preventing the hammer from remaining cocked. This constitutes a safety feature, since the chamber may be safely loaded or unloaded without any possibility of the hammer reaching the firing pin to produce accidental discharge.

WALTHER MODEL HP *(HEERES PISTOLE)*

Walther during the 1920's, derived the greatest portion of his income from the world-wide sale of Models 8 and 9. The sales of these models held up through the Thirties. Two hundred thousand Model 8's were manufactured between 1920 and 1936.

The addition of Model PP in 1929 and Model PPK in 1931 when coupled with the political unrest and expanding Army boosted Walther sales with a corresponding plant expansion.

Even before Hitler shed the shackles of Versailles, German arms manufacturers were experimenting with pistol designs which they hoped would replace the standard service pistol, the P-08 (Luger). The Luger, a fine pistol, was too complicated

to repair easily and it had too many parts to be easily manufactured on a mass production basis—and Germany, under the New Order, would need weapons that could be quickly, cheaply, and easily produced.

Fritz Walther offered to the German Army High Command (the OKH—*Oberkommando des Heeres*) his *Heeres Pistole,* HP (or Service Pistol). This 9mm caliber pistol, in its pre-war commercial version stamped with the Walther banner, is one of the finest pistols in terms of design, workmanship, materials, and exterior finish.

The HP had the double-action feature of the PP and PPK series; a signal pin to indicate a loaded or unloaded chamber, and a very smooth single-action trigger pull. It's safety system is the best ever used on a military type pistol or on a big or medium caliber auto-loading pistol. The two-piece walnut grips are beautifully checked.

The 1939 World's Fair edition of Stoeger's catalog listed the HP at $75.00. Listed calibers included: 9mm Parabellum (Luger), .38 ACP, and .45 ACP. The two latter calibers were only made on an experimental basis and none were sold.

The OKH adopted the HP to replace the faithful Luger. German ordnance required a few changes to expedite manufacture. The HP, after the required changes were made, was adopted in 1938 and hence the name, P-38 (*Pistole* of the year 1938). Versions of the *Heeres Pistole* have been used by the Swedish, Norwegians, and Czech's.

The required changes made in the sear and safety were minor but were of such nature that most HP and P-38 parts are not interchangeable. Because the Model HP is closely linked with development of the P-38, we refer to the HP again in the next chapter.

An HP which sold for $75.00 in 1939 will bring $125.00 or more today. The price depends on condition. It is a good automatic pistol collector's item and it is wonderful to shoot for fun or for keeps.

WALTHER
Waffenfabrik Walther, Zella-Mehlis (Thür.)
Walther's Patent

Basic Data, Model HP *(HEERES PISTOLE)*

Caliber: 9mm Parabellum (Luger); experimental models made in calibers .38 ACP and .45 ACP.

Size: Length: 8.38 inches; height: 5.18 inches; width (slide): 1.18 inches; width (grip): 1.25 inches.

Weight (without magazine): 29.5 ounces.

Magazine: Detachable box, catch release in base of grip, 8-round capacity.

Barrel Length: 5.0 inches.

Lands: 6.

Rifling: One/10 inches.

Twist: Right.

Barrel: Designed to travel 0.5 inch, it carries locking block and unlocking plunger beneath chamber.

Action: Short recoil, locked breech. Slide unlocks when barrel travel (about 0.5 inch) stops and slide continues its rearward course.

Firing Mechanism: External hammer. Independent (flying) firing pin. Double-action trigger.

Mainspring: Coil and mainspring strut in rear of grip.

Recoil Spring: Twin coil springs with accompanying guides are mounted in guide channels on each side of receiver. Springs on recoil are compressed between double projections in forward end of slide and receiver seats.

Special Features

The trigger is a double-action type. The hammer, as in double-action sixguns, can be operated by trigger movement alone. When trigger is squeezed, the hammer strut (trigger bar) is pulled ahead. If hammer is not cocked at time of trigger squeeze, the trigger bar hook draws the sear and transfers entire pull to hammer bent. If hammer is cocked at moment of trigger pull, the trigger bar hook pulls the sear out of contact with the hammer.

Safeties

The hammer can not be cocked when the thumb safety is in the down, "Safe" position. When thumb safety is pushed

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WALTHER *HEERES* PISTOL (HP).

This pistol with minor modifications was adopted by the German Armed Forces in 1938 to replace the Luger *(Pistole* 08) as the standard service side arm. The hammer is shown at full cock but no indicator pin can be seen. This means that the chamber is empty. Grips may be wood, as shown, or plastic.

up into "Fire" position the trigger visibly moves forward. The pistol can now be fired in either one of two ways: (1) double-action by pulling trigger all the way back, as shooting a sixgun double-action; or (2) single-action (thumb back hammer and pull trigger). When the hammer is cocked and the safety is pushed from the up or "Fire" position to the down or "Safe" position, the hammer falls forward. This does not fire the pistol. The act of pushing down the thumb safety lever withdraws the firing pin into the slide (rear of breech) so that the hammer does not and cannot contact the firing pin.

This safety varies somewhat from the PP and PPK safeties in that in the latter two, the firing pin—instead of being withdrawn into the breech or slide—acts as follows: When the thumb safety is pushed down to "Safe," the cocked hammer falls forward as in the HP but the solid bar of steel drops between the rear end of the firing pin and the hammer thus making contact impossible.

These are the two best automatic pistol safety systems ever devised. The PP and PPK system with the steel bar probably has a slight theoretical edge over the HP system, but in actual practice there is little to choose between. Both are superior to any other systems including those devised by Browning, Borchardt, von Mannlicher, or Mauser.

Chapter 5

The P-38 and World War II Pistols

THE German Army Command adopted the modified *Heeres Pistole* in 1938 and military production commenced immediately. The Walther P-38 made by Walther in Zella-Mehlis did not carry the Walther banner or any commercial markings. The German Army Command, in an attempt to thwart identification by the Allies of the manufacturers of military weapons, assigned code markings. Each manufacturer was assigned a certain code for his plant. Walthers made by Walther were marked "ac" on the left side of the slide. Walthers made in Mauser's Oberndorf plant carried the Oberndorf code "byf." Mauser-designed weapons manufactured at Oberndorf also carried the "byf" code. The year of manufacture was stamped under the manufacturer's code. A Walther-made Walther manufactured in 1942 would be marked $\frac{ac}{42}$. The model designation was also stamped on the slide in this manner—P-38—or whatever the model was.

At the beginning of the war, in September, 1939, coding was ordered for all military arms, and the P-38 was manufactured under the following codes for the duration.* In general, the letter following the serial number on the coded pistols refers to the month of manufacture. For example, a=January, etc.

CODE	MANUFACTURER
480	Walther
ac	Walther
byf	Mauser
svw	Mauser
cyq	Spreewerk

*Lessen, Marvin, "Story of the Walther P-38," *Guns Magazine*, January 1961.

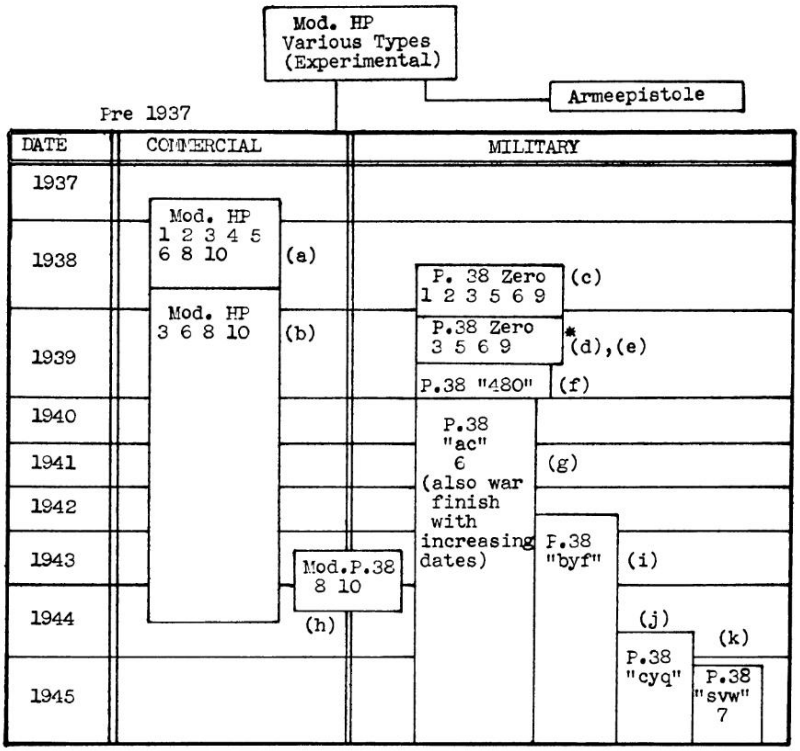


FIGURE 10. P-38 MODEL IDENTIFICATION CHARTS.
Approximate chronological listing is indicated above.

1—Rectangular Firing Pin
2—Concealed Extractor
3—Round Lanyard
4—Checkered Wood Grips
5—Checkered Plastic Grips
6—Commercial Finish
7—War Finish (grey)
8—Full Walther Markings
9—Walther Banner
10—Commercial Proofs
*(d) has rectangular pin
(e) has a round pin
Unless otherwise noted, pistols have:
Round Firing Pin
Exposed Extractor
Square Lanyard
Ribbed Plastic Grips
War Finish (blue)
Military Proofs

(a) WALTHER Waffenfabrik Walther, Zella-Mehlis (Thür)
Walther's Patent Cal. 9 m/m Mod. HP

(b) WALTHER Waffenfabrik Walther, Zella-Mehlis (Thür)
Walther's Patent Cal. 9 m/m Mod. HP

(c)
(d)
(e) WALTHER P.38 0147

Item (c) refers approximately to serial numbers 01-01500; item (d) 01500-04500; item (e) 04500-013000.

(f) P.38 480 722

(g) P.38 ac 41 523 a

(h) WALTHER Waffenfabrik Walther, Zella-Mehlis (Thür)
Walther's Patent Cal. 9 m/m Mod. P.38

2000 to 3000 of item (h) were manufactured

(i) P.38 byf 43 232 j

(j) P.38 cyq 807 p

(k) P.38 SVW 45 481 μ

FIGURE 11. SLIDE MARKINGS FOUND ON VARIOUS MODELS.
Letters refer to Figure 10.

The first production run of the P-38, the Zero Series, is distinguished by the "O" which precedes the serial number. There were four stages of development in this series alone. The first thirty pieces (01-030) incorporate the mechanical characteristics of the original model HP; whereas the final ten thousand pieces, except for the checkered plastic grips and markings, are identical to the common wartime models.

The first fifteen hundred of the Zero Series of P-38's will have the rectangular firing pin, while all other P-38's, including the later models in the Zero Series, have the round firing pin.

Although the original Model HP was at best very limited in production, the HP, as modified similar to the later P-38's, was continued in production at least as late as 1944. There was also produced, possibly in 1943 or 1944, a Walther designated as "Model P-38." This designation replaced the "Model HP" marking on the slide legend—otherwise the two are almost identical. These Model P-38s were very similar to the wartime P-38, except for slide markings, yet lacked the relatively fine finish of the wartime Model HP. In other words, at one time or another during the war, production was maintained on the government ordered P-38, the modified Model HP, and the Model P-38. The latter two have commercial proof marks.

The following check list of different P-38s and HPs which are known to exist will be helpful. Numbers 12 and 14 are not substantiated. However, a few lightweight P-38s supposedly were produced.

1. Model HP, rectangular pin, 9mm, checkered wood grips, original markings (See Fig. 11(a)), concealed extractor.

2. Model HP, round pin, 7.65mm, checkered wood grips, original markings, exposed extractor, red sloping rear sight, yellow spot on front sight, standard hammer, stamped "PRIVAT."

3. Model HP, round pin, 7.65mm, SINGLE ACTION, checkered wood grips, original markings, exposed extractor, red band on rear sight.

4. Model HP, round pin, 9mm, ribbed plastic grips, exposed extractor, markings as in Fig. 11(b).

5. Same as 4, but safety does not drop hammer.
6. Model P-38, round pin, 9mm, ribbed grips, see Fig. 11(h).
7. Model P-38, round pin, 7.65mm, mirror finish.
8. P-38, Zero Series, rectangular pin, 9mm, checkered plastic grips, concealed extractor, series 01-01500. Fig. 11(c).
9. P-38, Zero Series, rectangular pin, checkered plastic grips, 9mm, exposed extractor, series 01500-04500. Fig. 11(d).
10. P-38, Zero Series, round pin, 9mm, checkered plastic grips, exposed extractor, series 04500-013000. Fig. 11(e).
11. P-38, "ac," 9mm, 1940-1945, Fig. 11(g).
12. P-38, "ac," 9mm, lightweight, 1943.
13. P-38, "byf," 9mm, 1943-1945, Fig. 11(i).
14. P-38, "byf," 9mm, lightweight.
15. P-38, 9mm, cut-away training model.
16. P-38, "cyq," 9mm, no date, Fig. 11(j).
17. P-38, "SVW," 9mm, 1945, Fig. 11(k).
18. P-38, "ac," 9mm, no date.
19. P-38, "480," 9 mm, no date, Fig. 11(f).
20. P-38, "byf," 7.65mm, 1943.

One minor change in markings occurred in 1945, when the Nazi factory codes were changed, after the list of lower-case letters fell into Allied hands. Capital letters appeared on new codes, and SVW has been seen as a 1945 code mark.

The Swedish Army adopted the P-38 in 1939. The Walther-made P-38's shipped to Sweden were marked P-39, for the year of adoption. After the war when new Walther-made P-39's were no longer available, the Swedes adopted the 9mm Parabellum 1935 Browning made by FN.

Despite the adoption of the P-38 to replace the more difficult-to-manufacture Luger, production of the P-08 continued until December 1942 although a cease production order had been issued in September of the same year. In the 40 months between the beginning of World War II and the cessation of Luger production in December 1942, a reported 412,898 Lugers were manufactured.

Walther was unable to supply the ever-increasing demand for

P.38
ac
42
F
330 em

(Opposite Page) WALTHER P-38, LOADED AND COCKED.
The pistol represents war modification of the HP. Note the loading indicator pin projecting from rear of slide showing the chamber to be loaded. Letter "F" visible below the thumb safety tells that the pistol is ready to fire by a trigger pull.

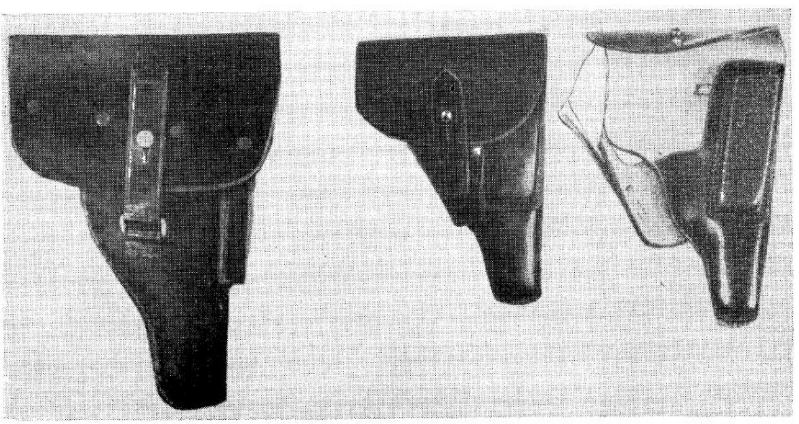
the P-38, so in July 1941 the *Mauser Werke* in Oberndorf was ordered to commence the manufacture of Walther P-38's. The unfortunate destruction of Walther records by the American army denies us his production record of wartime P-38's.

If you own a P-38 which might have been made during World War II, the precautionary information appearing near the end of this chapter merits your attention.

Service Walthers were issued with a black leather flap holster equipped with a spare magazine pocket, a spare magazine, and a cleaning rod.

Basic Data, P-38

Caliber: 9mm Parabellum (Luger).
Size: Length: 8.5 inches; height: 5.37 inches.
Weight: 34 ounces.
Magazine: Detachable box, release catch on bottom of butt, 8 rounds.
Safety: Variants, 1939 through 1944. (See heading—Original HP and the P-38 Safeties—this chapter.)



WALTHER PISTOL HOLSTERS.
P-38 holster is at the left. The PP holster is next shown in closed and open positions. The spare magazine pocket is typical of Continental military and police holsters. Material is black leather.

Barrel Length: 4.75 inches.
Lands: 6.
Rifling: One/10 inches.
Twist: Right.
Ejection: Right.
Action: Locked breech.
Firing Mechanism: External hammer. Flying (independent) firing pin. Double-action trigger.
Recoil Spring: Twin coil springs with accompanying guides mounted in channels located on each side of receiver beneath the barrel. Springs are compressed between projections in fore part of slide and their receiver slots.
Special Features: Signal pin. When there is no cartridge in the chamber a spring pin floats into chamber. When chamber is loaded the signal pin (or loading indicator) projects through rear of slide.

Instructions for Use

With the pistol empty, the magazine catch at the butt is pushed back and the magazine withdrawn. The magazine is loaded by pressing a cartridge down on the front end of the magazine follower (or platform), pushing it down and then sliding it in under the folded-over lips of the magazine. Successive cartridges should be pushed down and in until the magazine is filled. Insert magazine.

If you intend to fire the pistol at once, see that the thumb safety is off (horizontal position). Hold pistol in one hand *with finger outside the trigger guard* to guard against an accidental pull, and with the other hand pull the slide back as far as it will go and release it. This will cock the hammer and load the firing chamber. A pull on the trigger will now fire the cartridge in the chamber, eject the empty case, recock the hammer, and reload and lock the firing chamber. Note that the pistol *will not fire a second shot* until the trigger has been momentarily released to effect a firing hookup, and the trigger has again been pulled.

Slide Stop: When the last cartridge has been fired, the magazine follower will force up the stop to hold the slide open. Pushing the stop will let the slide go forward. If a loaded maga-

zine is placed in the stock and the stop pushed, the chamber will be loaded ready for firing.

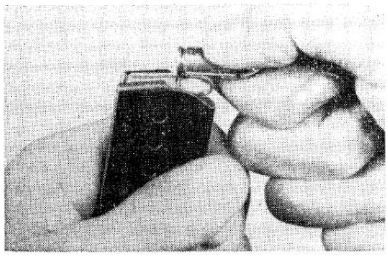
Signal Pin: If the chamber is loaded, the signal pin above the firing pin will project from the rear of the slide in warning. If you do not intend to fire the pistol at once, turn the thumb safety to "on" (vertical) position after inserting a magazine. Then pull the slide back and let it go forward. This will load the chamber safely and the hammer will go down with the slide to rest position. The hammer cannot be cocked until the safety is pushed off.

Automatic Safety: With the chamber loaded, hammer down, and trigger in forward position, it is perfectly safe to carry the pistol, as the automatic safety is locking the firing pin. Only when the trigger is deliberately pulled all the way back will the pistol fire. With chamber loaded and thumb safety off the hammer may be thumb-cocked for the first shot if desired. Otherwise a long pull on the trigger will raise and drop the hammer to fire the first shot. All succeeding shots are fired from the full-cocked position, since the hammer is automatically recocked every time the exploding cartridge drives the slide back.

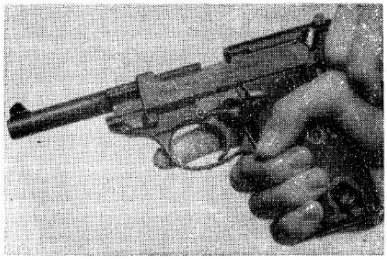
Misfires: If the pistol fails to fire due to a defective cartridge, pulling the trigger will raise and drop the hammer for a second try. Note, however, that if successive trigger pulls fail to fire the cartridge, the slide must be pulled back by hand to eject the dead cartridge and chamber a fresh one.

Automatic Hammer Lowering: When the hammer is up and the safety is in proper condition, pushing the safety down will lock the firing pin and then drop the hammer. Pushing the safety lever up will release the sear, thus bringing the automatic safety into play and making the pistol entirely safe. This will also let the trigger go all the way forward ready for the next pull. Pushing the safety down for the second time will doubly lock the firing pin and prevent the hammer from being raised until the safety is pushed off by the thumb.

(1) *Loading:* Hold the pistol with the right hand and render it safe by turning safety lever downwards to the fullest extent of its travel, thus fully exposing the letter "S." Release the magazine catch with the left thumb and remove the magazine. The left index finger withdraws the magazine from the grips, as shown in this illustration.



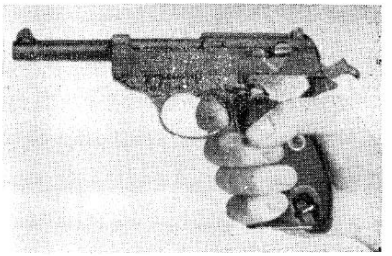
(2) *Filling the magazine:* Hold the magazine with the left hand and push the cartridges, base first, under the magazine lips by carefully depressing the feeder platform with the cartridge rim. The magazine holds eight cartridges. When emptying the magazine, push the cartridges gently forward until they are finally expelled by the upward thrust of the magazine spring. The seven holes in the side of the magazine make it easy to check contents. Any forceful jamming in or tearing out during either of these two operations would cause damage to the magazine and consequently lead to functional disorders of the pistol.



(3) *Introducing the first cartridge into the chamber:* After inserting the full magazine into the grip, hold the pistol with the right hand. The thumb safety must still be on "Safe." Next, grip the slide by the ribbed rear end with the left hand and pull fully backwards, then let go. This causes the first cartridge to slip into the chamber. The hammer, however, is not cocked by this process, as the safety lever is still applied and the hammer, therefore, cannot be cocked either by hand or by pulling the trigger through. To make the pistol ready for immediate use, push the safety lever upwards to cover the letter "S" completely; the letter "F" ("Fire") then becomes visible. The weapon will still remain uncocked since the firing pin is still blocked—the pistol is nevertheless ready for firing.

(4) *Single-action shooting:* In target shooting, the best procedure is to cock the hammer with the right thumb as illustrated. With a little practice this operation should become fairly easy. It permits a much better trigger squeeze and this in turn increases accuracy.

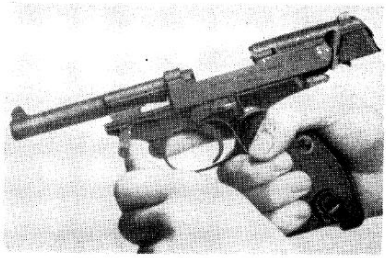
(5) *Double-action shooting:* Firing the first shot by means of the single-action method is, of course, best for practice and competition shooting. The need for double-action shooting may, however, arise under other conditions. In such case the hammer is cocked by simply pulling the trigger through its entire length of travel for the first shot. If the pistol fails to fire because of faulty ammunition, the trigger should be pulled again. A second impact of the firing pin on the primer will, as a rule, cause even a defective round to detonate.



(6) *Operating the safety lever:* Hold the weapon with the right index finger along the side of the trigger guard. The right thumb grips the hammer, while the left thumb pushes the safety lever downwards. The hammer can now slowly return to its resting position. Care should be taken that the muzzle of the pistol points downwards, or towards a safe direction.

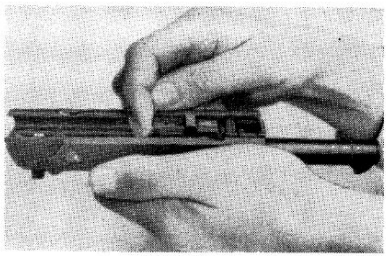
(7) *The emptied magazine:* When the last round in the magazine has been fired, the slide stays open. If shooting is to continue, remove the empty magazine and insert the next full one. Pull the slide back lightly and then let it glide forward. This will cause the first round to enter the chamber. This cartridge may also be fed into the chamber without using the left hand; simply depress the catch lever with the right thumb. If you do not intend to continue shooting, apply the safety lever.

(8) *Unloading:* If the P-38 is to be unloaded but has a live round in the chamber, put the safety lever on the "Safe" position, withdraw the magazine and remove the cartridges from the latter. Now pull the slide fully back. The cartridge will then be extracted from the chamber and drop out.



(9) *Dismantling:* Insert an empty magazine. Hold the pistol with the right hand and move the safety lever to "Safe." Next, pull the slide back until it stays open, and remove the magazine. Then turn the barrel catch lever downward with the left thumb until it engages with an audible click. If an empty magazine is not inserted, the retracted slide may be made to stay open by pushing the catch lever upwards.

(10) *Removing slide from frame:* The barrel catch lever having been pushed down, the slide should now be pulled back slightly and then allowed to move forward to separate from the frame. Alternatively, the slide may be drawn back with the left hand while the right thumb depresses the breech catch lever. Following this, the slide may be allowed to glide forward and off the frame unit.

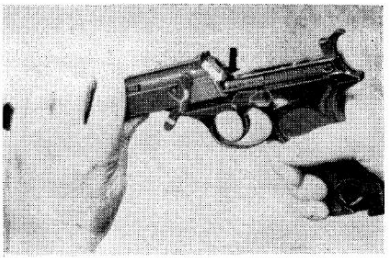


(11) *Separating barrel from slide:* Hold the slide upside down in the left hand. Press the small internal locking bolt towards the muzzle end with your right index finger. The barrel can then be readily taken out of the slide unit.

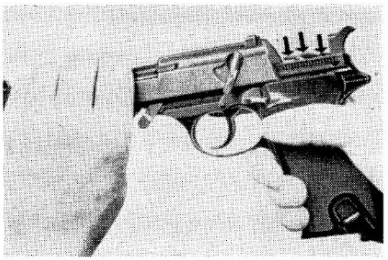
(12) *Cleaning the component parts:* The pistol has now been partly stripped and split up into four main units: barrel, slide, frame (grip), and magazine. These components can now be cleaned and oiled.

The barrel, the grooves of the slide, and the grip units should be lubricated with a good, acid-free, and non-resinous oil, and the barrel should then be wiped dry again. Any further dismantling should be carried out only if there is an uncommonly great amount of dirt present in parts. Such work, however, should be entrusted to skilled craftsmen.

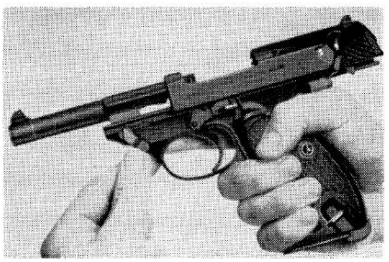
(13) *Assembling:* The reassembling of the weapon is appropriately carried out in the opposite order of takedown. To avoid damage during this process, it is important that you realize that reassembling can only be accomplished while the pistol is in a "Safe" state, i.e., the hammer must be *down*. First, fit the barrel to the slide. When attaching this reassembled unit to the grip unit, ensure that the *locking bolt below the chamber is pressed upwards with the left thumb* in the manner shown in the illustration. The slide unit can now be freely pushed back over the frame top without any fear of damage to the recoil springs, the slide, or the frame.



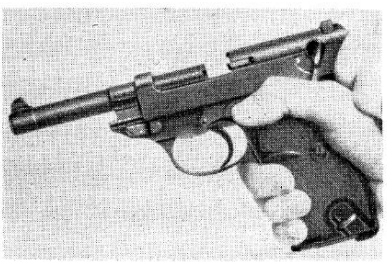
(14) *Installing the slide:* The three protruding parts—ejector, release lever, and trip lever *must be pushed downwards* to permit the slide to run freely back over the top of the frame (the three components referred to are indicated by arrows).



(15) *Fastening barrel:* Insert the empty magazine into the grip, then pull the slide back until the latter engages and stays open. Now push the barrel catch lever back into its normal locking position with the left thumb as illustrated.



(16) *Assembly completed:* Finally, push the breech locking lever downwards with the right thumb and at the same time pull the slide back with the left hand, then let the slide move forward. The P-38 is now once again safe and ready for further service.



OPERATION

Figure 12 shows the pistol with chamber and magazine loaded, hammer down but ready for instant double-action firing.

The signal pin (16) in the roof of the slide is being forced back as its point rests on the cartridge in the chamber. Its rear end protrudes from the slide to warn that the chamber is loaded. Its spring (17) is compressed.

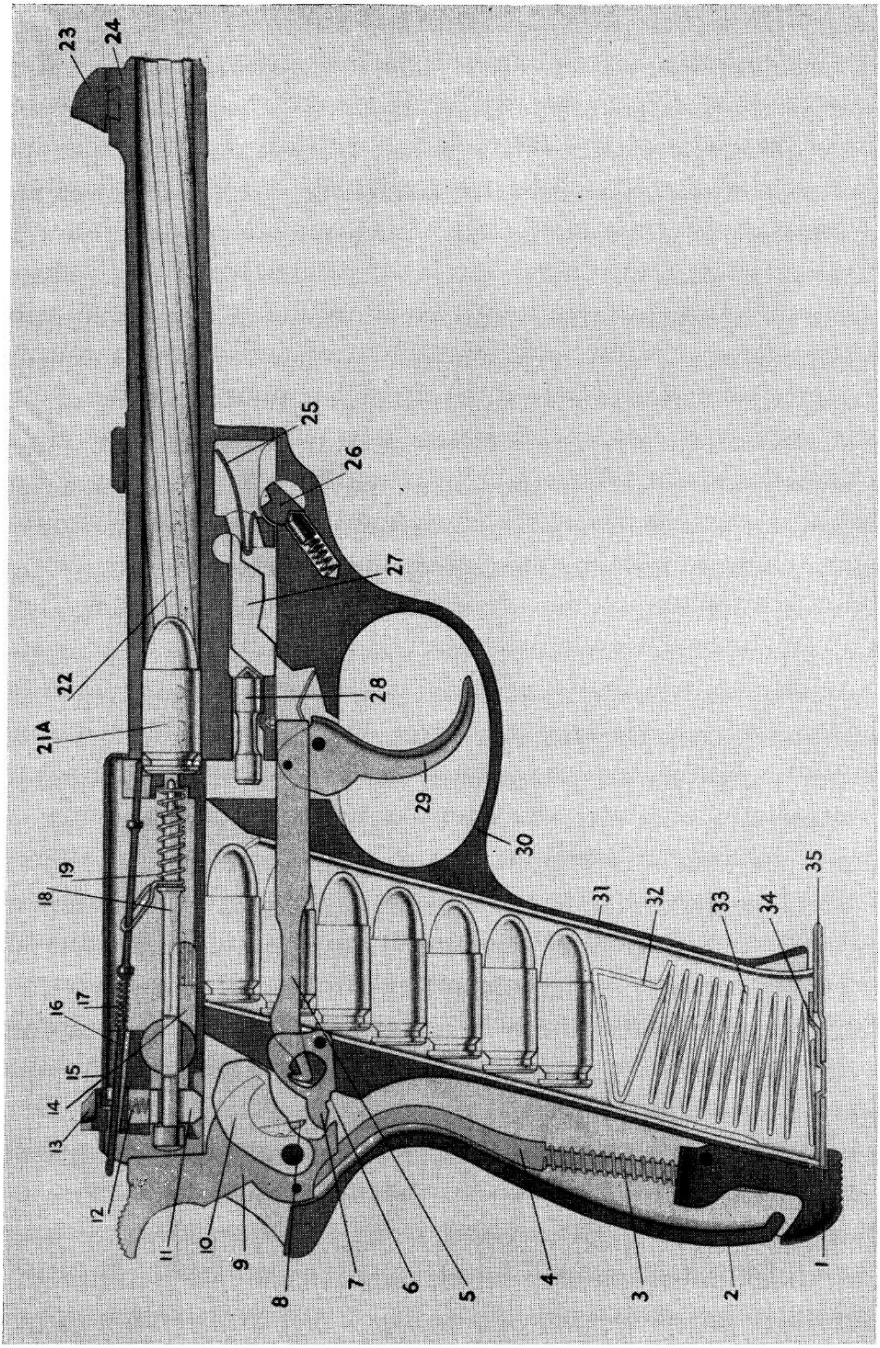
The point of the firing pin (18) is ready to emerge from its hole in the face of the breechblock to fire the cartridge (21A). During forward movement of the pin the spring will be compressed and will react to draw the pin back inside the slide immediately after striking the primer. The thumb safety (14) is in the horizontal "Off" position, so its stem leaves the firing pin free. However, the automatic firing pin safety bolt (11) within the slide is being forced down by its spring (12), and its bar is lodged directly behind the head of the firing pin positively preventing accidental discharge.

At the front end of the trigger guard the barrel locking bolt (26) is in place and is being supported by its spring and plunger. (Its release lever is on the left side.) The locking block (27) in the underside of the barrel forging is in locked position. Its bottom section is resting on the ledge machined into the receiver below it, while its locking wings are securely in place in either side of the slide. Its supporting spring (25) is in place. Thus the slide and barrel are locked together as a unit.

The unlocking pin (28) is in its hole in the barrel forging below the cartridge chamber. Its nose is against the locking block.

TWO P-38'S DISPLAY COMPONENTS.

Top and bottom views of the slide appear in the upper line. Next below and across are the barrel forgings; note the difference in position of the unlocking pins. The locking blocks are next shown across. The two locking wings and unlocking cam lug are visible in the block at the left. Two views of the receiver are shown across the bottom line. In the receiver at the left the sear, trigger bar, and mounting of the right recoil spring together with its guide can be seen. Note that the hammer is at full cock position. The receiver at lower right shows the hammer in down position. The left side of sear, hammer strut, mainspring, barrel lock at front, slide stop at center, and position of left recoil spring and guide are visible. Magazine is shown beside receiver.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Its head protrudes from its hole and faces the solid receiver stop surface behind it.

The hook of the extractor on the left side is engaged around the extracting groove of the cartridge case ready to draw the case out as the slide recoils.

The trigger (29) is fully forward, its spring ready to be compressed. The attached trigger bar (5) passing along the outside of the receiver on the right hand side is ready to move forward when the trigger pivots. The upper part of the bar is riding in a channel in the underside of the slide, thereby permitting the tit at the end of the bar to pass through the sear hole (6) at high level.

The sear (6) is in rear position ready to move up and to the front on its axis pin when drawn by the trigger bar (5). The sear nose (7) is ready to raise the automatic firing pin safety lifter (10) and also push the hammer raiser (8) back as it is drawn up and ahead.

The automatic firing pin safety lifter (10) attached to the right side of the hammer is ready to thrust up the automatic

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FIGURE 12. OPERATION AND PARTS, P-38.

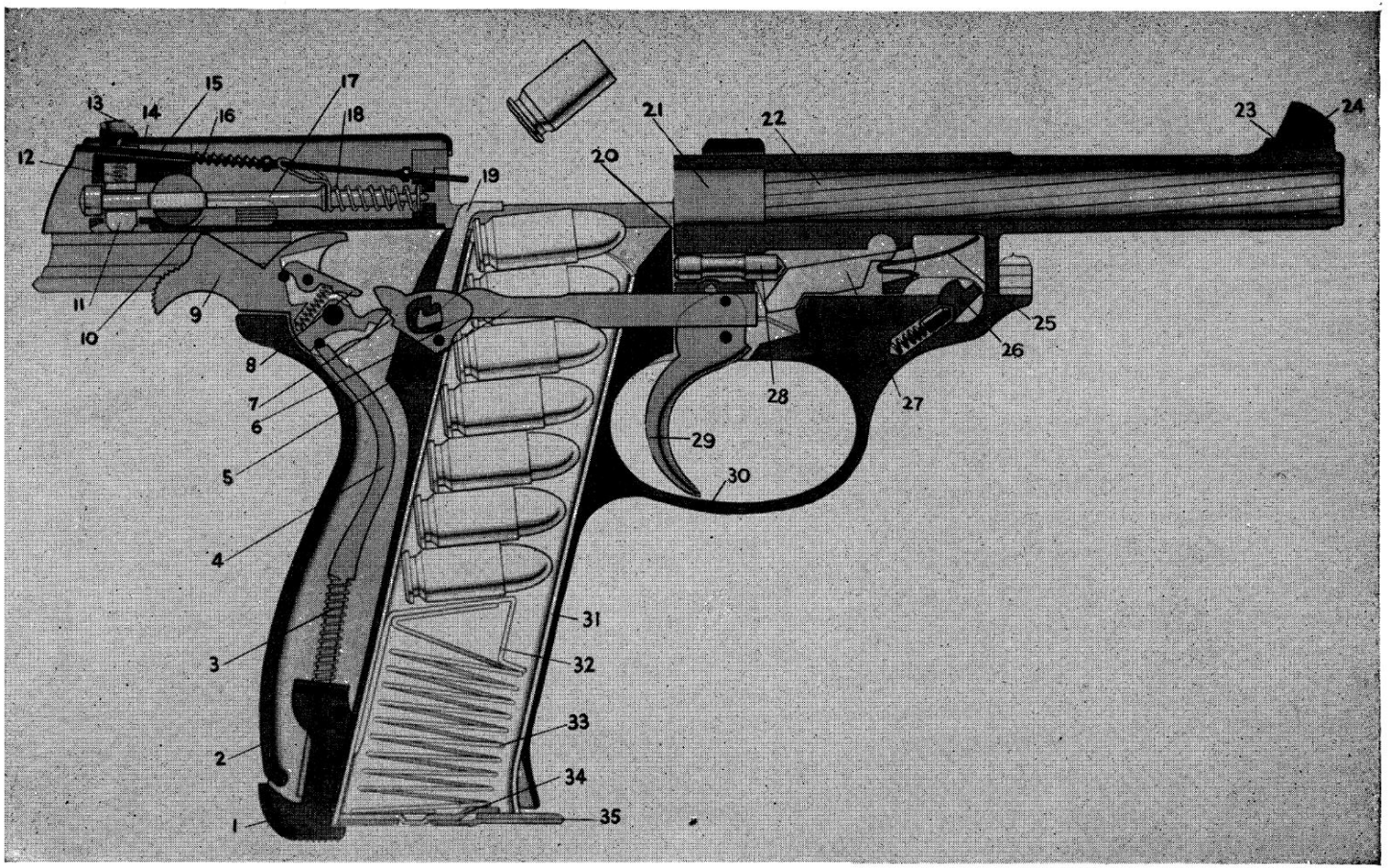
P-38 with chamber and magazine loaded. Hammer is down, manual safety is OFF but automatic safety is locking the firing pin. A pull on the trigger will fire the first shot.

The following parts are numbered identically with those in Figure 13:

1 Magazine release catch
2 Grip (2)
3 Mainspring
4 Hammer strut
5 Trigger bar
6 Sear
7 Sear nose
8 Double-action hammer raiser (or lifter)
9 Hammer
11 Automatic firing pin lock
12 Automatic firing pin lock spring
13 Rear sight
22 Rifling in barrel
25 Locking block spring
26 Barrel locking bolt with spring and plunger
27 Locking block
28 Barrel and slide unlocking pin
29 Trigger
30 Trigger guard
31 Magazine
32 Magazine follower with step for slide stop
33 Magazine spring
34 Magazine base plate
35 Magazine bottom

The following parts in Figure 12 have numbers differing from their identification in Figure 13:

10 Automatic safety lifter
14 Thumb safety (left side of slide)
15 Deck on top of slide
16 Signal pin
17 Signal pin spring
18 Firing pin
19 Firing pin spring
21A Cartridge in chamber
23 Front sight
24 Front sight base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safety block (11) in the slide above it to free the firing pin (18). The tip of the hammer lifter (8) is ready to push the hammer (9) back to full cock and release it when acted on by the rising sear (6) during double-action movement.

The hammer (9) is in position to pivot on its axis pin and force the strut (4) down. This will compress the mainspring (3) between the strut surface at the top and the compression platform in the magazine catch below.

The magazine catch (1) operating off the main spring (3) is holding the magazine securely in place from below. Drawing the catch back permits removal of the magazine (31) from below.

The magazine (31) is loaded. The bottom cartridge rests on the follower (32) which is compressing the spring against the removable magazine bottom (35).

The step (32) on the magazine follower is ready to rise and force up the slide stop on the left of the pistol when the last shot has been fired. This will hold the slide open to warn the pistol is empty and also to speed up reloading.

Figure 13 shows the pistol in full recoil position, empty case being ejected.

The signal pin spring (16) has forced the signal pin (15) ahead. When the chamber is finally empty, the tip of the pin will float into the chamber (21). Its rear end will be flush with the rear of the slide, thereby notifying the shooter the cartridge chamber is empty.

The firing pin spring (18) has drawn the firing pin (17) back

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FIGURE 13. OPERATION AND PARTS, P-38 (Continued).

This shows the P-38 in full recoil as the first cartridge is fired. The ejector (see 19 below) has just hurled an empty case out of the action. The trigger is disconnected. Compressed recoil springs are about to close the action and reload the chamber.

Use this list to identify those parts which differ in number designation from preceding Figure 12.

10 Thumb safety
14 Deck on top of slide
15 Signal pin
16 Signal pin spring
17 Firing pin
18 Firing pin spring
19 Ejector
20 Barrel stop in receiver
21 Chamber
23 Front sight base
24 Front sight

into its hole in the breechblock. The automatic firing pin safety (11) has been forced down by its spring (12) behind the head of the firing pin.

At the upper front of the trigger guard (30) the travel guides can be seen in the receiver, since the barrel has recoiled a short distance locked to the slide before its travel was halted by receiver stop (20).

The locking block (27) traveling back with the barrel and slide reached the cam face of its resting ledge in the receiver. The unlocking pin (28) carried in the barrel forging was struck against the solid surface of the receiver stop (20) and its point was forced against the cam face of the locking block. Thus as the barrel hit its stop in the receiver, the pin forced the locking block down the cam face into the space ahead of the trigger. This action drew the locking wings out of engagement with the slide.

As the barrel halted, the unlocked slide continued to the rear under the momentum imparted to it by the rearward action of the powder gases thrusting the case back against the face of the breechblock. Slide travel was directed by cuts in the slide engaging in guides in the receiver and the barrel.

The extractor in the slide carried the empty case out of the firing chamber.

The empty case struck the hook of the ejector (19) protruding from the rear of the magazine well. This twisted the case out of the grip of the extractor hook and tossed it out of the ejection opening.

The trigger (29) being under pressure of the firing finger is still in rear position, its spring compressed. The trigger bar (5) was forced down as the solid surface of the rear of the slide rode over its upper part. This lowered the tit at the rear of the trigger bar breaking engagement with the sear (6). This prevents firing more than one shot for each pull of the trigger.

The sear (6) is in position to permit the underside of its nose (7) to catch and hold the hammer nose. This will keep the hammer (9) at full cock when the slide moves forward.

(Meanwhile the recoil springs mounted on either side of the

slide—not visible in the drawings—have been compressed around their guides, thereby storing up energy for the closing movement of the action.)

The hammer (9) has been driven completely back and ridden over by the slide. As the hammer pivoted it pushed the attached hammer strut (4) down, thereby compressing the mainspring (3). The double-action hammer lifter (8) and spring are also visible, attached to the hammer (9).

The magazine spring (33) forced the cartridges up in the magazine as the breechblock slide rode over the head of the magazine. The folded over lips of the center of the magazine hold the top cartridge in line.

When the recoil springs reassert themselves and drive the slide forward, the feed face on the slide hits the base of the top cartridge and drives it from between the magazine lips up into the chamber (21).

The slide striking the barrel assembly drives it ahead, thus camming the locking block (27) up its ramp into engagement with slide and barrel. The extractor slips over the cartridge case, its spring snapping it into place. The signal pin (15) is forced back by the head of the cartridge in the chamber.

The pistol is now loaded and locked. The hammer is cocked and held by the sear.

However the pistol still cannot fire. Only when the trigger is momentarily released to permit the trigger bar to rise into its channel in the slide will the hookup be made to permit firing the next shot.

Pistol Locked: Figure 14 shows the left side of the P-38 or Walther HP with part of the slide and frame cut away to show the positions of the locking elements when the pistol is ready for firing. (In the drawing the hammer is down. As this is a double-action pistol, the weapon may be fired by trigger pull with the hammer down so long as there is a cartridge in the firing chamber and the thumb safety is in the horizontal "Off" position. The signal pin protruding from the rear of the slide above the hammer shows that the chamber is loaded.)

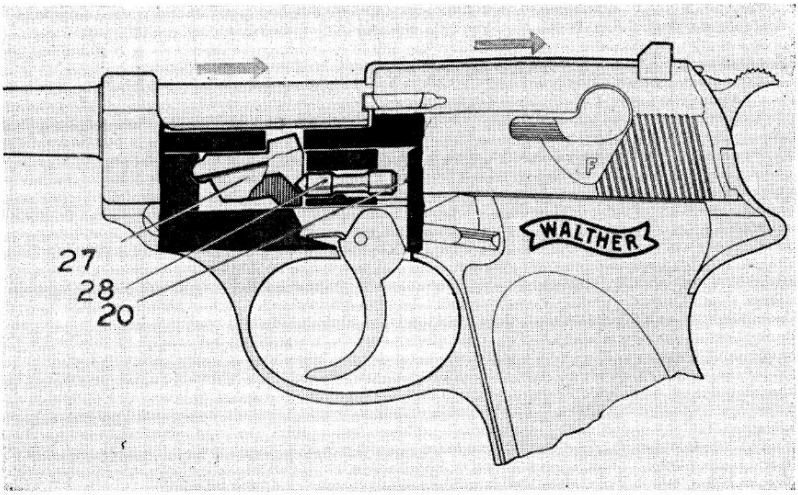


FIGURE 14. POSITION OF LOCKING ELEMENTS.
This P-38 is ready to fire.

The arrows show the direction of locked barrel and slide travel, which is directly to the rear. Appropriate guides machined into the lock mounting which is part of the barrel forging below the cartridge chamber, and in the receiver, direct the path of slide travel.

At the instant of firing the breech must be securely locked. If it is not, the trigger bar on the left side of the action will not be able to rise into its channel in the underside of the slide. This will prevent the trigger bar from acting on the sear.

In locked position as shown, the swinging locking block (27) which with its spring is mounted in the section below the barrel, is in "up" position. An upper locking surface on this block is engaged in a cut in the barrel forging, while wings on either side of it are firmly locked into corresponding cuts in the sides of the slide. The lower cam surface rests on a ledge in the receiver.

A floating pin (28) is housed in a hole in the rear section of the lock housing of the barrel below the cartridge chamber. Its forward end touches the locking block. Its head protrudes slightly from its hole into a space between the end of the barrel forging and the receiver wall (20).

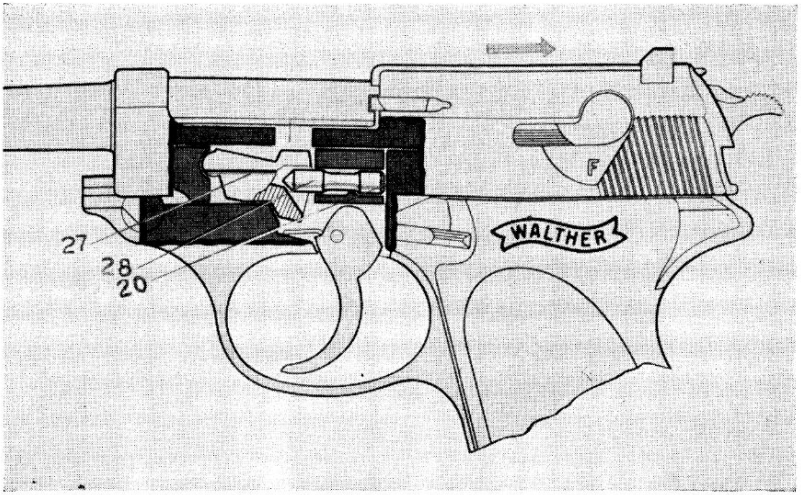


FIGURE 15. POSITION OF LOCKING ELEMENTS (Continued).
Just fired, the slide on this P-38 is now unlocked.

Pistol Unlocked: As the pistol fires and the bullet leaves the barrel, the barrel and slide recoil locked together (Figure 15).

When the protruding head of the floating pin (28) strikes the receiver wall (20), it is forced forward against the slanted surface of the locking block (27). This cams the locking block down, bringing its wings out of engagement with the slide and lowering the block into the recess above and ahead of the trigger. The barrel itself then hits the receiver and its rearward movement is halted.

The unlocked slide, as indicated by the arrow, continues to the rear to compress the two recoil springs within it around their guides. These springs and guides are mounted on either side of the slide, and serve to store up energy for the return movement of the action.

The recoiling slide forces the trigger bar down out of sear engagement. It also drives the hammer back. As the hammer revolves on its axis pin, it pushes down the hammer strut attached to it, compressing the mainspring positioned around the strut. The sear catches and holds the hammer in full cock position.

The extractor on the left side of the slide withdraws the empty

case from the chamber as the slide goes back. When the slide completes its rear stroke, the bottom of the cartridge case hits against the ejector rising from the magazine well and is twisted out of engagement with the extractor claw and hurled from the pistol.

When the slide clears the top of the magazine, the magazine spring forces the cartridges up against the folded-in magazine lips.

When the recoil springs draw the slide forward, the feed surface on the breechblock section of the slide hits the top of the upper cartridge and strips it from the magazine which is open at the front. As the loaded cartridge is thrust into the firing chamber, the extractor claw snaps over its head and catches in its extracting groove under the influence of the extractor spring.

When the breechblock surface of the slide strikes the mouth of the barrel, it forces the barrel assembly ahead. The moving barrel pulls the locking block up the slanted cam surface on which it is resting in the receiver. Thus when the slide is fully home, the locking block (27) mounted in the barrel forging has been raised until its bottom is on the shelf in the receiver. At this point the upper surface of the locking block is lodged in the cut in the barrel forging; and the locking wings are securely engaged in their cuts in the slide.

Releasing the trigger now permits the spring to raise the trigger bar under the slide so it can engage the sear to fire a second shot.

SAFETIES

Operation, Double-Action: Arrow 1 on Figure 16 shows the trigger bar ready to move forward when the trigger is pulled. As the trigger pivots it will pull the attached trigger bar straight ahead. Since the tit at the rear end of the trigger bar is engaged high in the sear hole, a pull on the trigger will cause the trigger bar to raise and draw the sear forward on its axis pins as indicated by arrow 2.

The nose of the sear will push up and back on the hammer lifter to bring the hammer to full cock while at the same time it

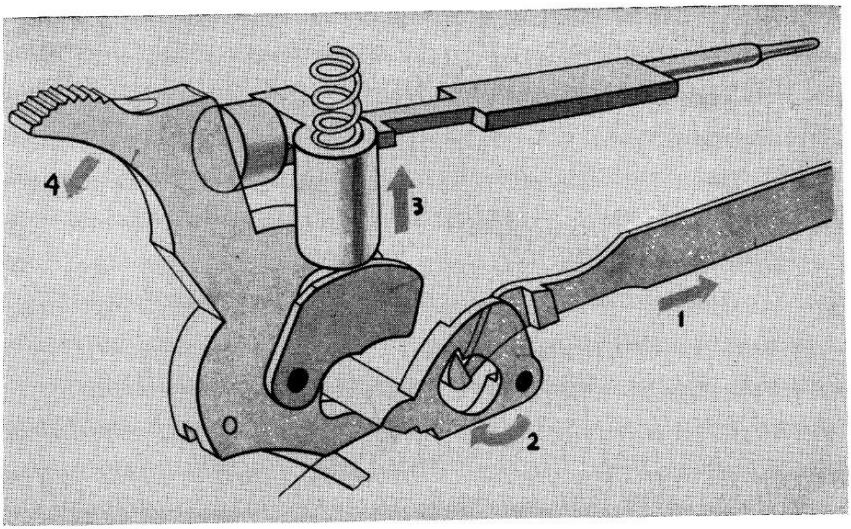


FIGURE 16. P-38 SAFETY SYSTEM.
Here the firing pin is locked by the automatic safety. When the hammer is down or is not fully cocked and the thumb safety is OFF, an automatic safety inside the slide blocks the firing pin. Thus if the hammer should slip when being cocked, it may strike the firing pin head but it cannot move it ahead to fire.

will lift the lever pinned loosely assembled to the right side of the hammer. This lever in turn will thrust the automatic locking plug up as indicated by arrow 3. The arm of the safety bolt positioned behind the broad head of the firing pin will be lifted above the head and the return spring will be compressed. Thus at full cock position, and when the hammer slips off the sear and falls, the firing pin is free to move forward to fire. Note that this can happen only from full cock.

The hammer is rocked back on its axis pin as indicated by arrow 4, thereby thrusting the attached hammer strut down to compress the mainspring. When it passes full cock the sear nose slips the hammer lifter, allowing the hammer to fall on the free firing pin.

Operation, Single-Action: (Figure 17) When the hammer is cocked by the thumb or by rearward action of the slide, the protruding lower nose on the hammer lifts the sear nose as the

hammer rolls on its axis pin and compresses the mainspring around the hammer strut.

When the hammer is at full cock it is held back by the engagement of this hammer nose in the underside of the sear nose. This drawing shows the pistol mechanism at full cock ready for the trigger pull. Arrow 1 shows the trigger bar ready to move forward when the trigger is pulled. The tit at the end of the trigger bar is in firing engagement with the sear.

The sear nose, lifted by the hammer nose from below, is pressing the lifting arm on the hammer which in turn is supporting the automatic safety block. The block is high enough to permit the firing pin to pass below its locking bar. Arrow 2 shows the motion the sear will make when drawn by the trigger bar to free the sear nose and let the hammer fall.

Arrow 3 shows the direction of movement of the firing pin lock and spring as the hammer arm and sear nose support them from below.

Arrow 5 indicates the motion of the hammer as it falls under influence of the mainspring pushing up on the hammer strut.

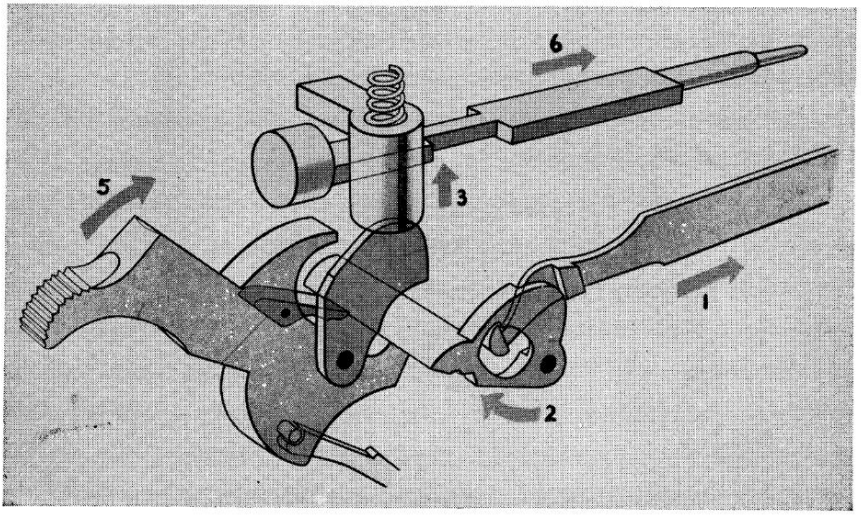


FIGURE 17. P-38 SAFETY SYSTEM (Continued).
Showing the firing pin unlocked from automatic safety.

Arrow 6 shows the path of travel of the free firing pin when the hammer strikes it. Note that the firing pin is cut away ahead of the automatic firing pin safety lock. Solid surfaces of the thumb safety bolt lock into these cuts when the thumb safety is applied, positively preventing any forward movement of the firing pin if the safety is in operating condition.

Operation of the Thumb Safety

(See Figure 18) When the lever of the thumb safety (14) on the slide is turned down it revolves the stem inside the slide, bringing solid metal surfaces on the rounded stem down around the cutaway section of the firing pin (18). If the hammer (9) is up when this is applied, the stem drops the hammer automatically by forcing the decocking lever on the left side of the hammer to draw the sear out of engagement.

If the safety (14) is applied and the slide then drawn back over a loaded magazine to charge the firing chamber, the hammer (9)

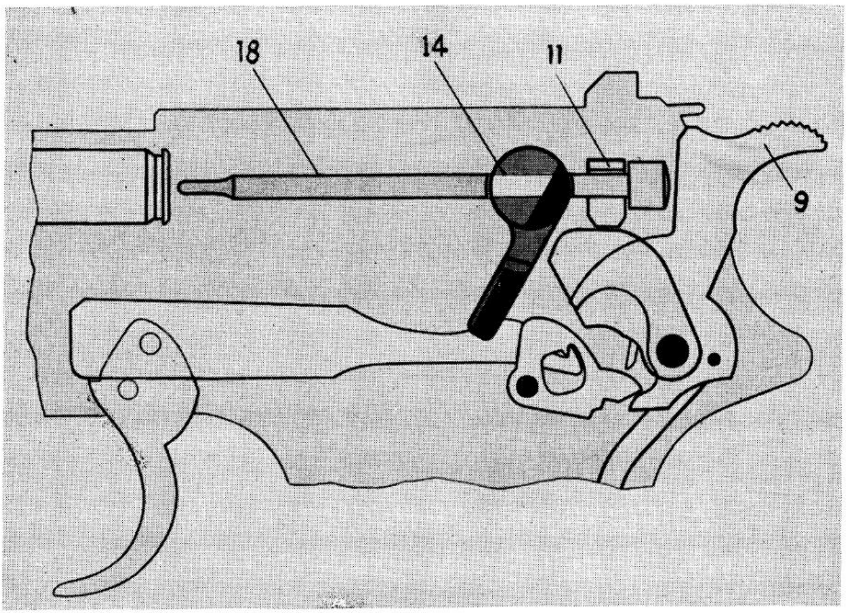


FIGURE 18. P-38 SAFETY SYSTEM (Continued).
Hammer now is down on loaded chamber and thumb safety applied.

will follow the slide down, leaving the pistol as shown in this drawing. In this position the firing pin (18) is locked by the automatic stop (11) directly behind the firing pin head, and also by the stem of the thumb safety engaging in and locking the firing pin shank. Pulling the trigger will not full cock the hammer in this position, hence the pistol is absolutely safe from accidental discharge.

Figure 19. In this position the firing pin (18) is positively locked by the automatic firing pin lock (11) which will be lifted clear of the head of the firing pin only when the hammer (9) is brought to full cock.

In this position the hammer may be thumb cocked for the first shot if desired. However, this is not necessary. Pulling the trigger as in a double-action revolver will raise and drop the hammer to fire the cartridge in the chamber. The recoil will eject, recock and reload for succeeding shots.

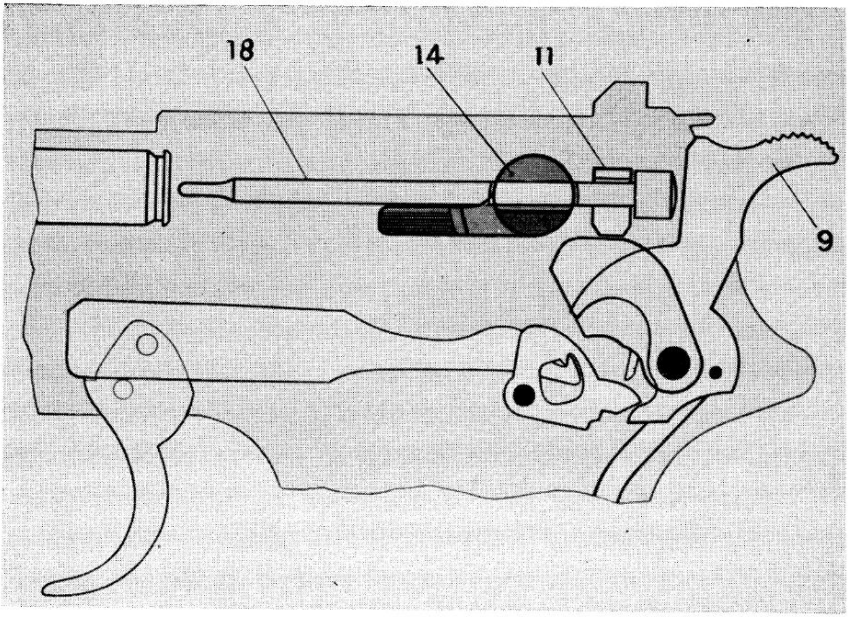


FIGURE 19. P-38 SAFETY SYSTEM (Continued).
Hammer is down and firing pin free of thumb safety.

UNCOCKING THE P-38

As in all types of exposed hammer pistols, the hammer may be held by the thumb and the trigger squeezed to lower the hammer gently against the firing pin. There is always danger, of course, in any pistol in doing this. If the hammer gets away from the thumb it may fire the chamber unless the trigger has been speedily released to bring the automatic safety into operation when the sear drops.

Pistol Cocked Ready for Firing: In Figure 20 the firing mechanism is seen ready for the trigger pull. The hammer (9) is at full cock with the mainspring thrusting up against the hammer strut (4). The hammer nose is engaged with the sear nose (6) ready to be released. The trigger bar is ready to draw the sear out of hammer engagement when the trigger pivots as it is pulled. The thumb safety (14) is in the horizontal position where it does not interfere with the movement of the firing pin (18).

To lower the hammer it is necessary only to apply the thumb safety (14). Arrow 1 shows the direction the lever will take when

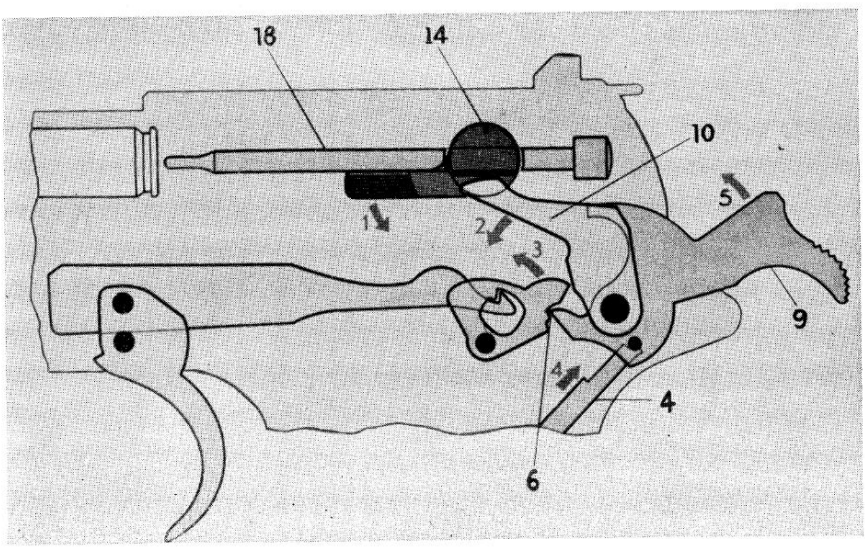


FIGURE 20. P-38 SAFETY SYSTEM (Continued).
Firing mechanism ready for the trigger pull.

pushed. The cutaway safety stem inside the slide will engage in the cuts in the firing pin shank to prevent the firing pin (18) from moving ahead.

When the locking surfaces of the thumb safety (14) have passed through the cuts in the firing pin (18) to lock it, continued pressure on the safety lever forces a surface on the stem against the decocking lever (10) attached to the left side of the hammer pin (9). Arrow 2 shows the direction of movement of the tip of this lever. The lever rocks the hammer back past full cock.

Arrow 3 shows the direction of movement of the sear as it is lifted by the hammer nose.

When the hammer slips off the sear at (6), the mainspring thrusts the strut (4) up as indicated by Arrow 4.

The hammer (9) turns on its axis pin as indicated by Arrow 5. It hits the head of the firing pin, but since the firing pin is locked by the thumb safety within the slide, the pin cannot strike and fire the cartridge in the chamber when thumb safety is in good condition.

Pistol Uncocked with Thumb Safety Applied. Figure 21 shows the mechanism after the safety has been used to drop the hammer on the loaded chamber. The thumb safety lever (14) is shown, the safety stem is locking the firing pin (18) within the slide. Pulling the trigger in this condition cannot effect proper sear engagement to permit the trigger to be pulled to cock and drop the hammer. If the hammer is thumb cocked in this position, it will not stay back, as it cannot make engagement with the sear at (6), as safety (14) continues to force decocking lever (10) down.

Releasing the thumb safety from this position, then re-applying it makes the arm doubly safe since it operates both the automatic and manual safeties.

THE ORIGINAL HP AND THE P-38 SAFETIES

The original model *Heeres Pistole* (HP), and the best modification of the P-38, as made by Walther have a more complete firing pin safety system than those made during the height of the war. Figure 22 showing the two models side by side should be studied by anyone owning one of these weapons. The pistols are

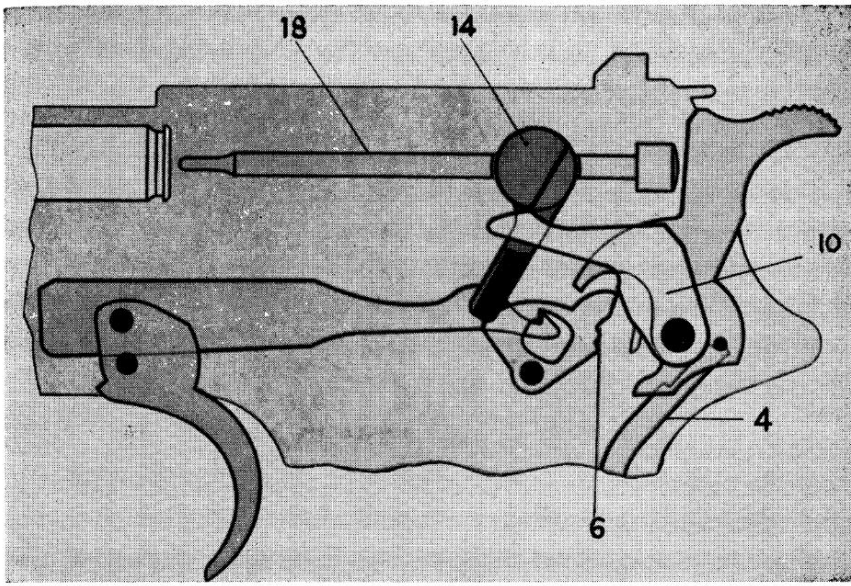


FIGURE 21. P-38 SAFETY SYSTEM (Concluded).
Thumb safety applied.

shown with their respective slides held back by slide stops, with the thumb safeties applied.

The pistol on the left is the earlier commercial model and is the more desirable. Note the shape of the firing pin, which immediately identifies it. In this pistol the thumb safety performs *three* functions as it is pushed down. (1) As its stem inside the slide revolves it first draws the firing pin far enough forward so the hammer cannot strike it as it falls. (2) Then the locking surface on the stem passes through cuts on either side of the firing pin to block any further forward movement of the pin. (3) Finally, (when the slide is fully forward and locked) a surface on the revolving stem pushes down on the sear release and drops the hammer safely and automatically.

Observe that with this design the hammer falls on the solid machined surfaces of the slide. It does not strike the head of the firing pin.

The pistol on the right is the model commonly manufactured

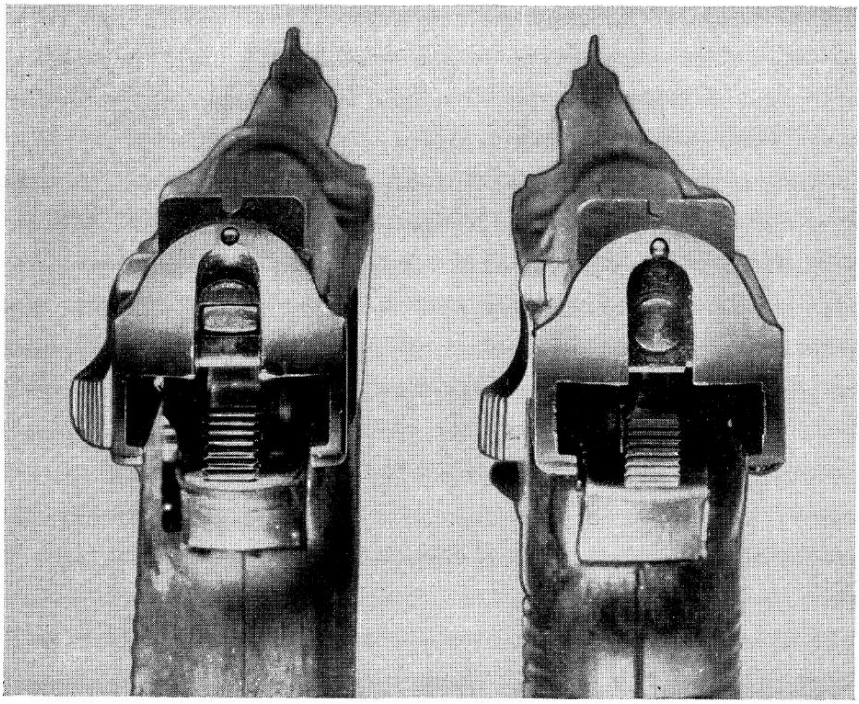


FIGURE 22. COMPARISON OF COMMERCIAL HP AND WARTIME P-38. The better, early commercial model appears at left. Note difference in shape of the firing pin.

during the course of the war. The round head on the firing pin identifies this type.

In this type the thumb safety performs only *two* functions and is not as desirable as the other model. (1) As the locking stem revolves, when the thumb lever is pressed, its locking surfaces pass through appropriate cuts in either side of the firing pin. The surfaces lock it and prevent forward pin movement when the safety is in good operating condition. (2) Next it depresses the sear release to drop the hammer.

Observe that in this type the hammer falls *on* the round head of the locked firing pin itself. Thus if the locking surfaces should be broken or improperly fitted, it is possible for the pistol to fire accidentally as the slide goes forward. In actual practice with a

factory-assembled pistol this could happen so seldom that the danger would be negligible.

SPECIAL WALTHER HI-POWER

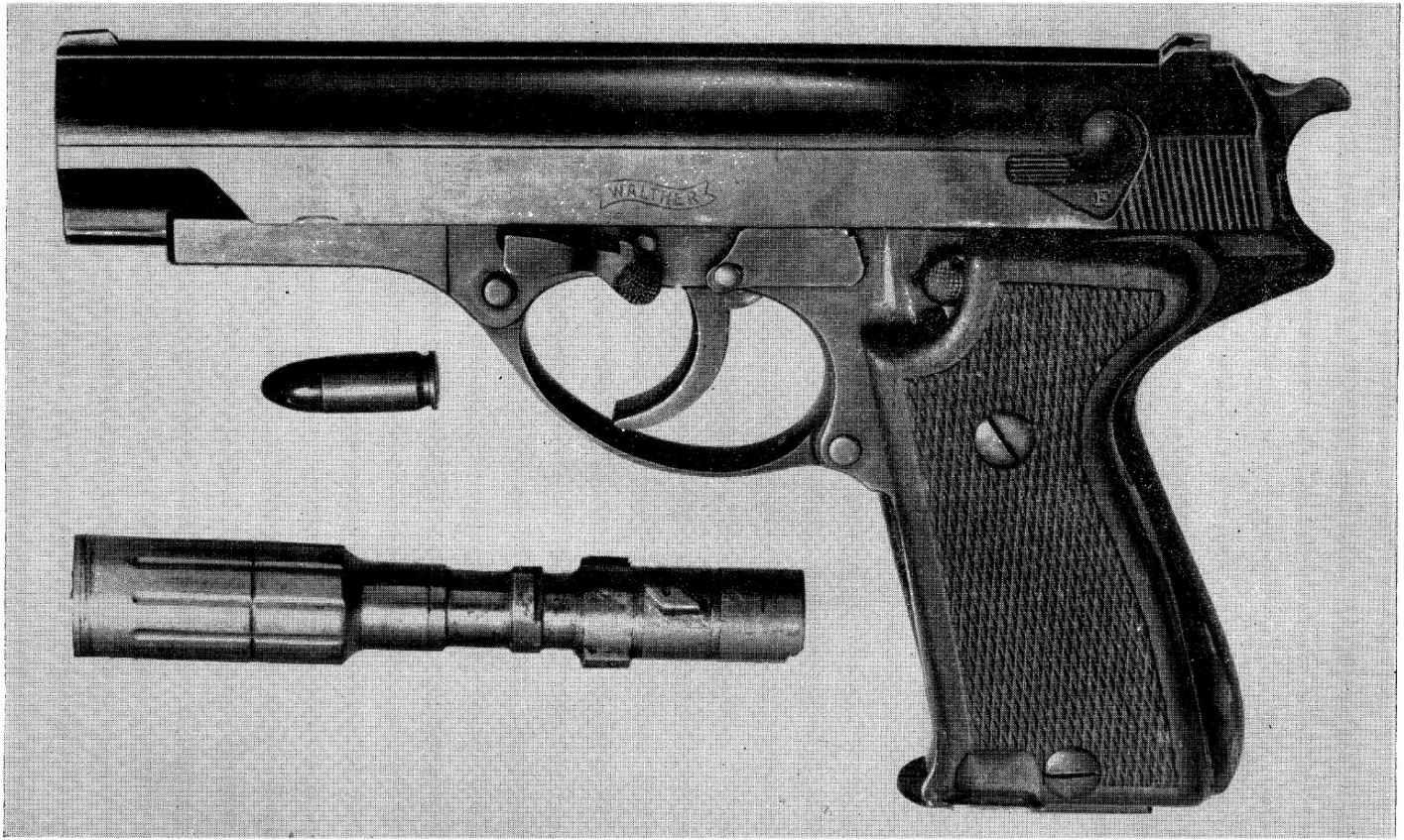
The crude pistol shown in Figure 23 is evidence of the continuing research in Germany for newer, cheaper, quicker, and easier arms manufacture right up to the close of World War II. It is further an evidence of the difficulty of keeping abreast of arms manufacture and development in conquered territory, even when critical machinery has been removed or destroyed.

The receiver, which holds the important assemblies in a weapon, is generally the most expensive and difficult part to manufacture. In an automatic pistol it usually forms the grip which contains the firing lockwork, and has the barrel and moving members mounted to it.

In this pistol the receiver consists of one simple forged piece which forms the trigger guard and the mount for the breech end of the barrel, together with a series of elementary stamped steel pieces fastened by pins to the forging to constitute a unit which will do anything an expensive, intricate forging will do.

The slide construction is an elementary forging which serves in standard fashion to act as a breechblock and to hold the firing pin and extractor assemblies. It differs radically from standard form in the simplicity of milling, and in the fact that its barrel locking surfaces are not machined in but are pinned to the roof and sides of the slide. The recoil spring and guide are carried below the barrel.

The breechlock is an interesting adaptation of the early Austrian Steyr and the later American Savage system, but in design and manufacture is simpler and cheaper than either one. It consists essentially of a cam slot in the single forged strip of the receiver directly below the barrel mouth; of a camming lug on the breech end of the barrel which travels in this cam slot; of three locking lugs on the barrel which turn in and out of locking engagement in the slide as the barrel recoils and turns; of a stop lug machined near the center of the barrel; and of a grooved


WALTHER

cylindrical bushing sweated over the muzzle of the barrel which acts as a support bushing for the barrel muzzle while the slide travels back and forth.

The action is quite simple. At the instant of firing the barrel and slide are securely locked together. The rearward thrust of gases in the cartridge case pushes the case back against the face of the breechblock forcing it back. The pull of the breechblock-slide on the barrel draws it back slightly, causing the barrel lug in the lock cam-slot in the receiver to follow the curved slot. This turns the barrel until the three locking lugs twist out of engagement with the locking surfaces inside the slide. The stop lug on the barrel hits the receiver and halts rearward barrel movement. The unlocked slide goes back by itself to eject, cock, and compress the recoil spring.

When the recoil spring pulls the slide ahead to reload, the face of the breechblock section of the slide strikes the mouth of the barrel driving it ahead. As the revolving lug on the barrel follows the cam slot in which it rests in the receiver, it twists the barrel. The locking lugs on the barrel lock in their locking surfaces inside the slide.

The ingenuity and simplicity of both design and manufacture of this arm might well serve as a warning that any general disarmament, whether of a conquered nation or of the world at large, can be brought about only by never-ending vigilance and inspection. Machinery originally necessary to manufacture weapons of war is no longer an absolute essential in Germany, Russia or the United States. The standards by which we have judged war making potential in the past no longer apply. There is a lesson to be learned from the fact that the simplest industrial peacetime machinery can overnight be converted to war manufacture by a hostile power.

FIGURE 23. SPECIAL WALTHER HI-POWER MODEL.

This unique Walther featured a new revolving barrel locking system and the receiver was made largely from cheap stampings thus avoiding requirements for costly machinery. This one is a 9mm '08 (Luger) caliber; the special barrel is shown below pistol. An example of wartime effort to speed production of arms for the increasingly desperate military forces of Germany.

THE WALTHER MODEL KPK

Did Walther continue extensive research and development during World War II years? To what extent, if any, did he speculate about again making pistols for a post-war peacetime market?

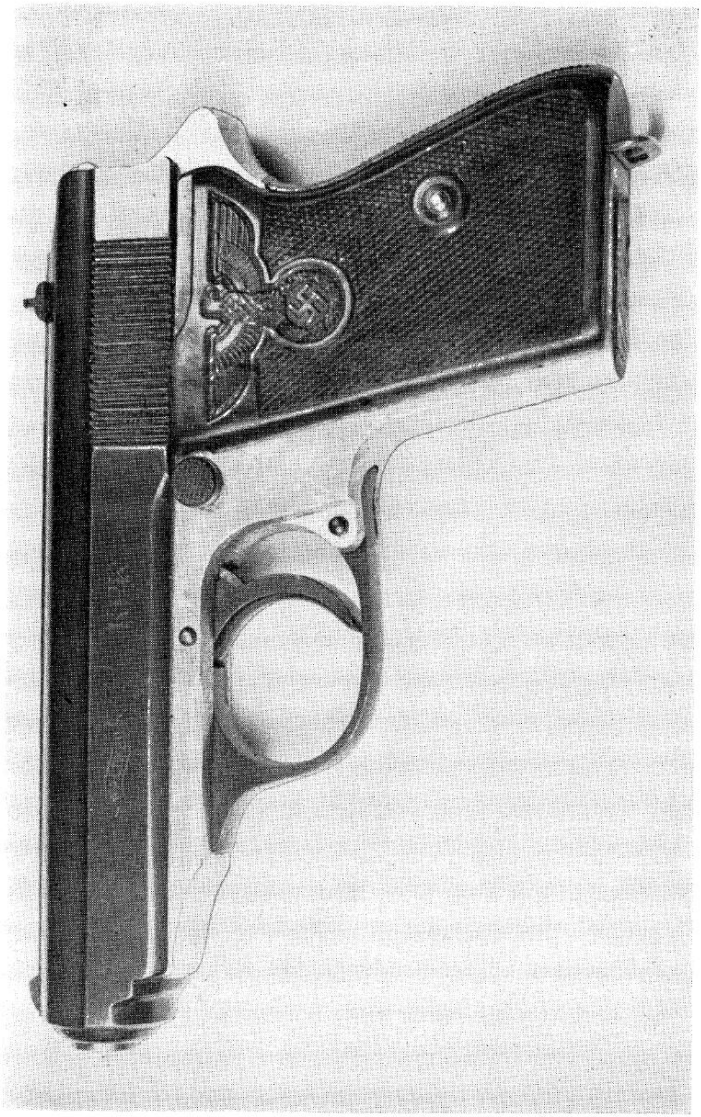
It seems unlikely that Germany's wartime manufacturing problems and pressures allowed Walther much time for projects not directly associated with the hungry demands of wartime production. Yet evidence that Walther's design experiments were not entirely disrupted is found through specimens of a Walther pistol known as the *Modell* KPK.

Very little detail is available regarding this pistol. It is believed to represent possibly an early World War II or late commercial development of the basic PP design. A few KPK's were produced with a modified slide which concealed the hammer; the pistol was made up on a lightweight alloy frame. Samples weighing 14.5 ounces have been identified in the 7.65mm Browning caliber. Other available dimensions of the KPK are confined to the overall length as six inches, barrel length 3.3 inches, and magazine capacity seven rounds. The grips were in black or white plastic and molded with the Nazi eagle and swastika. Some of the grips may have been two-piece but one-piece grips were also made.

Maybe the Model KPK was experimental, but more likely it represented another effort to provide a suitable sidearm for Nazi officers which would be easy to manufacture and economical in production. It is interesting to note that the slide carried the Walther banner—not usually stamped on military models. Perhaps the slides were left over from pre-war commercial stocks. In any case, if you have one, hang on to it; as a collector's item, it's rare!

WARNING ON WALTHERS OF WARTIME MANUFACTURE

Large numbers of P-38's (and other pistols) returned by our troops were assembled from seized parts. Furthermore, poor



WALTHER MODEL KPK.

According to the owner the barrel of this one is stainless steel, mounted rigidly on the frame. The slide is blued steel; note added metal further protecting the hammer. Ejection is to the right. This one does not have a safety but does have an automatic locking bolt. The pistol may be fired either single or double-action. Except for the slide and the safety, the parts of the KPK exactly match those of the lightweight PPK. Some of the magazines featured a finger rest—plastic or steel.

This pistol is owned by Mr. F. Phillips Williamson of Cambridge, Maryland who kindly supplied the photograph. The pistol was originally in the Walther Museum—until April, 1945.

MODEL KPK COMPONENTS.

materials and poor fitting were common in enemy arms in the late years of the war. Slave labor was extensively used in the various pistol manufacturing centers. These centers were often under bombardment and sabotage occurred at times; all those facets of the war combined to produce a high percentage of inferior German arms. Before extensively using any P-38 which may have been manufactured during the war or assembled from wartime parts, owners should have a competent gunsmith perform a thorough safety inspection of the weapon. In general two points should be checked.

1. The *locking block* which locks the barrel and slide together

at the instant of firing *should be checked.* With the slide mounted on the receiver from the front, it is all but impossible for the slide to be blown off and injure the shooter, however, the two recoil springs in the P-38 are not, of themselves, heavy enough to keep the pistol closed during moments of high breech pressure.

Yet is is possible to assemble this arm *without inserting the locking block.* If the pistol is fired without this lock, the slide will almost invariably jam back and injury may be inflicted upon the shooter as well as the travel guides. If the locking block *itself* does not hold, the trouble may be due to a piece of improper fit or inferior metal.

2. The *thumb safety should be checked.* In all models of the HP, PP, PPK, and P-38, pushing down the thumb safety when the hammer is cocked revolves a locking stem inside the slide to lock the firing pin and then, as it continues turning, to force down a de-cocking arm to drop the hammer. Where, as in the case of the PP and PPK, this safety additionally interposes a steel face between the hammer and the firing pin itself, we find an example of the finest safety ever conceived, entirely aside from its secondary automatic safety which blocks the hammer. In the HP and some P-38 models, pushing the thumb safety draws the firing pin inside the slide and locks it so the falling hammer cannot strike its head. This also is an excellent safety system.

However, in most models of the P-38, the automatic de-cocking arm raises the sear and disconnects the secondary automatic safety. The hammer then falls not on a steel safety obstruction, but on the head of the firing pin itself. Normally this will be perfectly safe, since a cutaway safety stem locks the firing pin behind the head before dropping the hammer. However, in one widely publicized case the cutaway safety stem had crystallized and broken off inside the slide; this, though a freakish occurrence, permitted the hammer to drive the firing pin forward and accidentally fire the cartridge in the chamber.

It was not uncommon for parts to break and even for receivers to crack in some of the weapons made in the United States under the stress of war. It is quite likely that the thinly machined parts

of German arms were plagued with the same weaknesses, and perhaps more. Therefore a gunsmith should examine the firing pin and thumb safety in your P-38 for evidence of wear, inferior workmanship, or sabotage if you intend to use the automatic hammer lowering device. In any event, no weapon should ever be carelessly pointed at anyone when loading or unloading; particular pains should always be taken to see that the muzzle is so directed that no one is remotely near a line of fire should accidental discharge occur.

For Gunsmiths Only

A competent gunsmith should be engaged to check the safety on war model P-38's as a precautionary measure. The following instructions for dismounting are given for his guidance—complete dismounting of any firearm is not recommended to the casual owner.

(1) Remove slide from pistol following instructions under dismounting the P-38. (2) Pry up the spring steel deck on top of the slide at its forward end, pull it forward and lift it out. (3) Since the rear sight is held in position by tension of the spring steel deck, the sight may now be lifted out of its seating. (4) Push the floating loading indicator back until its front surface can be lifted clear of the forward slide cut where it rests; then draw the loading indicator and its spring forward out of the firing pin spring loop. (5) Turn the slide over and shake out the units mounted on either side of the firing pin head. The cylindrical unit on the right side is the automatic safety with its spring which prevents movement of the firing pin except when the sear is in firing position. The cylindrical piece on the left side is the firing pin stop. (6) Remove the firing pin and its spring from the rear (the thumb safety must be off before this can be done). (7) Work the lever of the safety back and forth and pull out on the lever. It may be worked out of the slide and its locking detent.

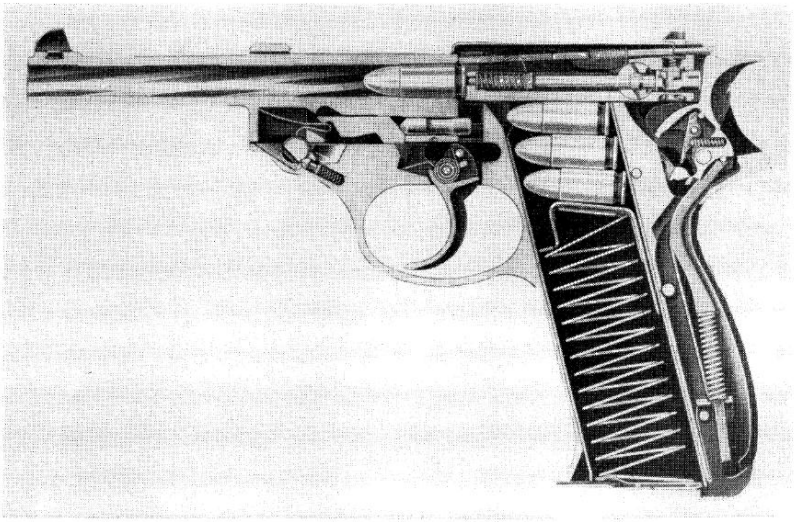
The locking surfaces on the firing pin and on the safety should be examined, measured and tested.

WALTHER POST-WAR P-38'S

Fritz Walther utilized income from Hammerli and Manurhin Walthers and from his business machine plants at Niederstotzingen and Gerstetten to return to the manufacture of P-38's for the Federal Republic of Germany's (West Germany's) *Bundeswehr* (Army)—and all this with the blessing of the NATO powers.

No major modifications were made in the post-war P-38. The modified wartime safety was adopted for the post-war pistol. This is an excellent safety provided the metal used doesn't crys-

POST-WAR P-38 IN PRESENTATION CASE.



CUTAWAY VIEW, POST-WAR P-38.

tallize and there is little chance of that with Walther's keen metallurgical research and the use of the finest arms steel.

The new P-38 complete with empty magazine weighs 27.50 ounces or 6.50 ounces less than the wartime pistol. The weight reduction was obtained through the use of a duralumin slide. The standard finish of black matte is practical but not as attractive as the slightly more expensive polished and blued finish.

Many shooters wish that Walther would equip the P-38 with the fine walnut checked two-piece grips of the Model HP. These were among the finest grips ever seen on an automatic pistol. The present black plastic grips are undoubtedly practical but fail to satisfy the admirer of pre-war Model HP's or any other well-stocked pistol.

Basic Data, 9mm Parabellum (Luger)

Caliber: 9mm Parabellum (Luger).
Size: Length: 8.41 inches; height: 5.38 inches.
Weight: 27.50 ounces.
Magazine: Detachable box, release catch in bottom of butt.
Barrel Length: 4.91 inches.
Ejection: Right.

The *Bundeswehr* (West Germany's Army), which is purchasing tens of thousands of P-38's, is Walther's largest single customer. In 1960 Fritz Walther decided he could make a slight improvement in the P-38's and recalled all army issue pistols. He got the job done.

The P-38's are imported by Interarmco, Alexandria, Virginia. They were first imported in 1959 and sold for $96.00 complete with extra magazine and presentation case. This price continued until the fall of 1961 when Stoeger's *"Shooter's Bible"* listed the standard "Ordnance Blue" finish P-38 at $150.00 and "high polish commercial blue finish" at $168.00.

Two Erma 4mm conversion kits are offered for use in the P-38. This makes it possible to use the 4mm (.20 caliber) cartridges in the pistol.

Chapter 6

Walther Military Rifles

THE Model 98 bolt action Mauser was an adequate weapon during the early days of the Wehrmacht's drive against Poland, Holland, Belgium, France, Denmark, and Norway. It was a different story when Hitler's hordes turned eastward towards Moscow. Russian advance divisions were equipped with the excellent Model 1940 Tokarev semi-automatic rifle. The German High Command ordered immediate development of a semi-automatic rifle.

The Germans had been among the first to experiment with automatic and semi-automatic rifles. Shortly after the turn of the century a German regiment had been equipped with a semi-automatic rifle designed by Peter Paul Mauser. Limited experiments showed that recoil operated semi-auto rifles were not practical for military use because of excessive weight.

The Germans adapted the recoil principle to light machine guns or light machine rifles but abandoned the principle for service rifles. The gas recoil principle was rejected as impractical.

During World War I the German Army used a limited number of gas operated Mexican Mondragon rifles built in Switzerland, which despite certain operating deficiencies showed that lightweight gas operated semi-auto rifles were entirely practical.

The Spanish Civil War, proving grounds for the future Allied and Axis weapons, showed the Russians and Italians the value of semi-auto rifles but the Germans, surprisingly enough, still refused to consider the adoption of a gas operated rifle.

The United States experiments, and eventual adoption of the Garand, were well known in Germany but the High Command clung to the outdated Mauser 98. Limited experiments were conducted with a gas recoil operated rifle which utilized a blast

cone like our early experimental Garand, but the locking system proved ineffective.

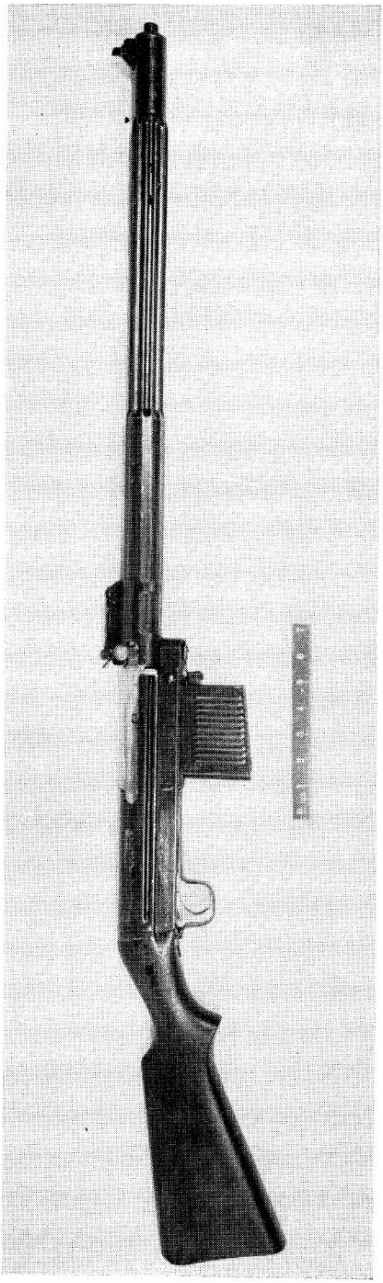
Contact with the Red Army and the Tokarev Model 1940, however, convinced the Germans of their need for a semi-auto rifle. The famed Mauser Werk came up with a variation of an earlier Mauser. The locking system was effective, but the muzzle cone gas operation left much to be desired. The weapon was a failure.

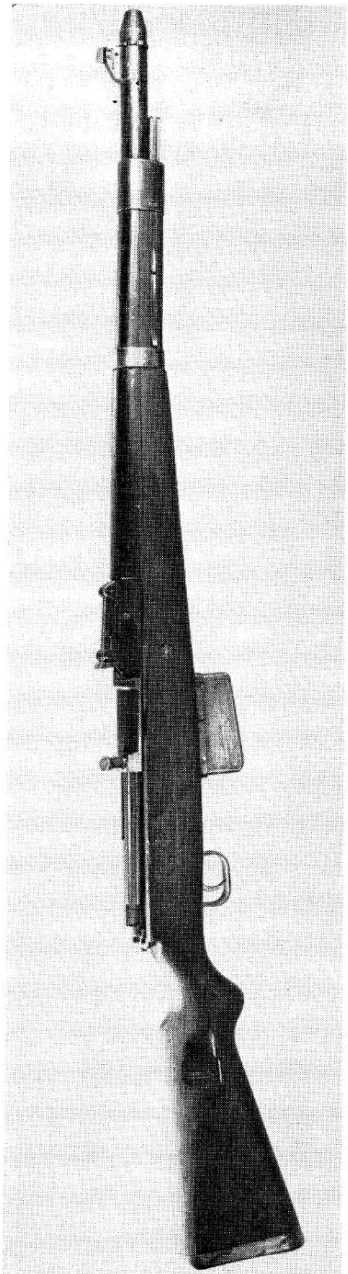
Fritz Walther, who had made an intensive study of semi-automatic rifles, offered the High Command a gas operated rifle which was immediately adopted. There were two versions of the Walther-designed rifle. The only practical difference between the Model 41-W and Model 41 is that on the Model 41 the bolt must be held back with one hand while the magazine follower is being depressed with the thumb of the other hand. The 41-W is equipped with a bolt release on the left-hand side of the receiver.

Basic Data, Model 41-W and Model 41

Caliber: 7.92mm (8mm).
Action: Semi-automatic, gas operated.
Length: 45 inches.
Weight: 10.90 pounds.
Barrel Length: 22.50 inches.
Magazine: Detachable box, staggered column, 10 rounds.
Cooling System: Air cooled.
Cocking Handle Location: Right-hand side.
Type of Fire: Semi-auto, one shot for each pull of the trigger.
Safety: The thumb safety extends from the rear of the receiver. Flip the safety to the left for "Fire" and flip it to the right for "Safe."
Sights: Blade front; the rear folding sight is graduated from 100 to 1,200 meters.
Operating System: Gas operated. When the bullet leaves the barrel the following gas is trapped within a muzzle cone. The entrapped gas thus drives an attached piston to the rear, thus unlocking the bolt.

Both the Model 41 and Model 41-W were made in small quantities. The muzzle cone method of operation resulted in ex-





EARLY WALTHER EXPERIMENTAL GAS-OPERATED RIFLE.

cessive fouling and corrosion of the action. The rifle was too heavy and ungainly in handling.

Operation

To load, pull the cocking handle to extreme rear position. Push the bolt handle upwards. Place the cartridge clip in its guide slot. Push the cartridges down. This may be repeated with a second clip of five cartridges.

When the safety is in "Fire" position and the trigger is pressed the gas pushes the bullet down the barrel but some is trapped by the muzzle cone. This forces the recoil rod backwards and unlocks the action. The bolt slides rearward and upon returning forward, pushes the next loaded cartridge into the chamber. Another pull on the trigger repeats the process and may be continued until the magazine is empty.

To field strip, proceed as follows:

Pull cocking handle to its extreme rear position.

Push the locking bolt over to the right. This will hold the mainspring in a compressed position.

Turn the safety to the right—the "Safe" position.

A locking plunger is located in the rear of the breechblock. Push in this plunger and raise the rear of the breechblock. Now withdraw the breechblock from the receiver.

Flip the safety to the left—the "Fire" position and pull the trigger to release the hammer catch.

The smaller plunger in the base of the front sight block locks the muzzle cone in position. Depress this plunger and then unscrew the muzzle cone. The cone and cap are then removed by sliding forward.

Remove both upper and lower bands. This permits removal of the barrel handguard. The operating rod is now exposed. Remove this from its seated position. After the operating rod is removed the entire spring assembly can be lifted out of its channel.

Assembly is accomplished as follows:

Flip the safety to the left—to "Fire" position.

Push the hammer down until it engages with the sear bent.

Turn the safety to "Safe" (right). Insert the breechblock with the front end down and on into the receiver. Push in the plunger located in the rear end of the breechblock. Release the plunger and flip the safety to "Fire" (left) position. Press the release catch.

Gewehr and Karbine Models 43

Almost immediately after the Models 41-W and 41 went into combat service German frontline infantrymen griped so much, so long, and so loudly, that even the Gestapo couldn't silence the complaints. The rifles were vulnerable to excessive fouling and considerable corrosion and were very ungainly in handling.

Fritz Walther, in 1943, offered a new semi-automatic rifle, the *Gewehr* and its short counterpart, the *Karbine* 43.

Basic Data, *Gewehr* 43 and *Karbine* 43

Caliber: 7.92mm (8mm) German Service cartridge.
Length: 44.50 inches.
Barrel Length: 22 inches.
Weight: 8.90 pounds.
Magazine: 10 rounds. These rifles may be loaded either by the insertion of a magazine through the floorplate, or from the top by the insertion of 10 rounds from two five-shot stripper clips, 10 single rounds, or one five-shot stripper clip and five single rounds. The magazine is a staggered box design.
Safety: The thumb piece projects from the rear of the receiver. Flip it to the right for "Safe" position.
Action: Gas operated.
Cooling: Air.

The G-43 and the Kar-43 resemble the 41-W except for the gas system which is based on the Russian Model 1940 Tokarev. The latter has a gas port drilled through the barrel with the vent located about 12 inches behind the muzzle. Unlike the Tokarev, the Walther gas port, as in the early Italian semi-auto rifles, is located on top of the barrel.

When the bullet passes the gas port the following gas escapes through the port and drives the recoil rod to the rear. This action unlocks the bolt and forces it rearwards so that the fired case is first extracted and then ejected. When the bolt travels forward a new cartridge is pushed into the chamber. A pull on the trigger repeats the process.

This is the principle in general. Here is the principle in detail.

Gas System

A gas port, or vent, is drilled through the top of the barrel about midway between the throat of the chamber and the muzzle. A barrel carrying a housing is pinned in place over the vent. A round steel cylinder bored through from end to end is threaded into the rear of the housing so that it lies over the barrel and parallel to it with the open end of the cylinder to the rear. We will refer to this as the "gas port cylinder" for lack of a better name. A bottlenecked steel sleeve, bored out from front and rear to leave a solid steel wall inside the cylinder at the bottleneck, is slipped over the gas port cylinder to form a sleeve valve. The operating rod assembly consists of (1) a tappet rod, one end of which slips into the rear of the bottle-necked sleeve valve, (2) a coupling into which the tappet rod slips from the front while the main operating rod slips into the coupling from the rear, and (3) the main operating rod which extends rearward from the coupling through the tunnel drilled through the top of the receiver. The rear end of the main operating rod impinges on the forward nose of the operating slide; (4) the operating rod return spring is a coil spring surrounding the main operating rod. Its rear end is supported by a shoulder in the tunnel through the receiver and its forward end bears against the coupling which joins the main operating rod and the tappet rod.

As the bullet passes the gas port in the barrel some of the gas forces its way upward into the gas port housing and expands to the rear through the gas port cylinder. Emerging from the rear of the gas port cylinder, it is trapped inside the sleeve valve and forces the sleeve sharply to the rear. This movement of the sleeve

valve is transmitted to the tappet rod and through it and the coupling to the main operating rod. After movement of about ⅝ of an inch, a port in the sleeve valve is uncovered so that any remaining pressure in the valve is released and any further motion to the rear is only the result of momentum. The return spring which has been compressed by the rearward motion of the operating rod then takes command and returns the sleeve valve and operating rod to its forward position ready for the next shot.

In the meantime, the energy from the expanding gas has been transmitted through the sleeve valve and operating rod assembly to the operating slide on the bolt. The operating slide then continues to the rear under its own momentum, unlocking the bolt and carrying it to the rear to extract the fired case.

Operating Slide

The operating slide is a rugged steel casting, or forging, formed with a heavy nose on its upper forward end to take the impact of the operating rod. It carries the "bolt handle" on its upper left rear end projecting from the perpendicular at about a 45° angle. It can only slide straight forward and backward because of grooves which engage the longitudinal ribs on the bolt housing or "lock case." When the bolt is fully forward a groove in the operating slide also engages a flange on the left side of the receiver to lock the slide securely to the receiver before firing. A stud projects downward from the operating slide through a slot in the top of the bolt. This stud engages the "locking piece" which operates the locking lugs. The slide latch, called the "retainer" by the Germans, is located at the right rear of the operating slide. When the operating slide is drawn fully to the rear the latch may be manually engaged to hold the action open.

Bolt and Locking System

The bolt assembly consists of the conventional steel cylinder carrying on its under side a ramp which depresses the hammer and cocks the piece as the bolt moves to the rear. The head of the bolt is deeply recessed to take the head of the rimless cartridge

case. The recess is so deep that most of the cannelure on the cartridge case is also held inside the bolt head. The extractor is a sturdy steel claw, spring loaded, and fitted into the upper right quadrant of the bolt head. Held by a flat headed screw, it is easily replaced. The forward face of the extractor lies in line with the forward rim of the bolt and does not extend beyond—a type of construction made possible by the deeply recessed bolt face. The bolt is duly slotted to travel over the husky spring loaded ejector mounted in the lower side of the receiver.

The locking lugs are not integral with the bolt. They are so designed that they fit, without hinge pins, into slots on either side of the bolt near the bolt head, one on the right and one on the left side, to provide dual opposed locking lugs supporting the head of the bolt. They engage in the receiver. The inner surface of each lug is provided with camming surfaces. The "locking piece" is slipped into the bolt from the rear. Its forward end is also provided with suitable camming surfaces to engage the inner surfaces of the locking lugs. With the locking piece in place, the locking lugs are held in their slots in the side of the bolt. As the locking piece is moved forward it cams the locking lugs outward through their slots into the locking recesses in the receiver. Moving the locking piece to the rear cams the locking lugs back into their slots where the outer surfaces of the locking lugs lie flush with the perimeter of the bolt. Thus the bolt is unlocked from the receiver and is free to move straight to the rear. Because the action of the locking piece in forcing the lugs outward to engage in their locking recesses is a wedging action this type of bolt action is referred to as a "wedge type" bolt action.

When the gun has been fired, the operating slide is forced to the rear as previously described. The slide moves a short distance to give the bullet an opportunity to clear the muzzle and let the residual pressure drop in the chamber so that the cartridge case will slightly contract away from the chamber walls. After this short motion of the slide, the stud on the slide engages the locking piece and moves it to the rear. This motion cams the

locking lugs out of engagement in the receiver. At this instant the stud on the operating slide also engages the bolt and the entire bolt assembly moves to the rear extracting and ejecting the fired case as it goes.

Striker Assembly

The striker assembly is the three piece unit which slips inside the locking piece. It consists of (1) a nail-shaped firing pin, (2) a tappet, called the "firing piece" by the Germans, and (3) a coupling into which the striker fits. A vertical pin on top of the tappet fits into a slot in the locking piece. This pin limits the forward travel of the tappet so that it merely strikes a sharp blow through the coupling against the firing pin which moves forward against the primer under its own momentum. All three units of the firing pin assembly are free-floating. The three-piece construction and the use of the tappet are apparently designed to keep down the weight of the firing pin so that it will not move forward with enough energy to discharge the primer as the bolt slams forward on a loaded round. The need for care in this case is indicated by the fact that notwithstanding the three piece construction, the floating firing pin generally marks a slight impression on the primer when the bolt slams home. No reports of accidental discharge with this design have been noted, however.

Bolt Housing

The bolt housing or "locking case" covers the entire receiver from the magazine well to the tang. It houses the action closing springs and the bolt assembly. On its outer surfaces are the guide ribs which engage the operating slide. A "long" and a "short" coiled spring (so referred to by the Germans) provide the power to close the action after they have been compressed by the opening of the bolt. These springs are mounted around a guide rod over the forward end of the bolt. This assembly of guide rod and tube prevents buckling of the coil springs under compression and provides for the forward movement of the bolt and operating slide. Projecting from the rear of the bolt housing is a spring

loaded plunger. This is the release catch which permits lifting the complete breech assembly, housing, slide and bolt, out of the receiver for disassembly.

Other Features

The safety is mounted over the tang to the rear of the bolt housing. Turning it to the right locks the piece. The slide must be latched in its rearmost position and the safety turned to the right before the release plunger can be pressed in and the housing assembly lifted out of the rifle.

The hammer is of conventional design. It is provided with two hammer hooks, one of which must be disengaged by allowing the trigger to move forward after a shot has been fired. The other is then disengaged by normal pressure on the trigger. This action, conventional in all semi-automatics, is to prevent "doubling" or full automatic fire.

The magazine is removable through the bottom of the action. The magazine catch is at the rear of the magazine well. The magazine is of the staggered box type holding ten cartridges. It is charged through the top of the receiver by use of conventional Mauser 5-round charger clips. Although the bolt remains open after the last round is fired, it is necessary to draw the slide fully to the rear and latch it in that position before a new clip can be inserted in its guides in the top of the receiver to introduce new cartridges.

The front sight is of the hooded ramp type mounted on a heavy barrel band, and provided with a broad, flat-topped post sight. The rear sight is a ramp leaf type with square notch. On the right side of the receiver is a long stout rib, dovetailed at the top and bottom to take a telescopic sight. Many were issued with such sights.

Stocks have a modified pistol grip. They are a one-piece type with handguard to protect the gas valve and operating rod. Butt plates are provided with a trap covering a receptacle in the stock for oil, tools, and a clear, concise, illustrated manual on care and field servicing the rifle.

Here are the main differences between the early and later models. The original hand guards on the Models 41 were plastic. The magazines were fixed projecting boxes. The receivers were forgings and were machined. The bolt slides were also forgings with the operating handle on the right and the release catch on the left. The trigger assembly differed from the later models in which the trigger worked off a sear instead of directly off the hammer.

In the Models 43 and 44, handguards were plastic or wood. Magazines were detachable steel stampings. The receivers were cast and were not finish-machined. The gas system differed as already described. The operating slides were cast but the bolt housings were stampings.

Chapter 7

Walther Target Pistols

GERMAN pistol shooters carried a new pistol in the 1932 summer Olympics in Los Angeles. The pistol was the recently designed Walther Hammerless Target .22. The Olympic Model was equipped with a 9-inch barrel while a 6-inch barrel version was made available to the majority of shooters who did not require the extra classic Olympic barrel. A special model with a 7.5-inch barrel, a 50-50 compromise between the standard pistol and the Olympic model, sold in the United States by Stoeger for $57.00.

Basic Data, Walther Hammerless Target

Caliber: .22 Long Rifle—.22 Short. Some models were equipped with duralumin slide and a specially bored and chambered barrel to handle the .22 Short cartridge, a favorite of Olympic pistol shooters because of its lesser recoil.

Size: Length: with 6-inch barrel, 9.9 inches; with 7.5-inch barrel, 11.4 inches; height: 5.31 inches.

Sighting Radius: With 6-inch barrel 8.2 inches, with 7.5-inch barrel 9.7 inches, with 9-inch barrel 11.2 inches.

Weight: With 6-inch barrel, 32 ounces; with 7.5-inch barrel, 31 ounces (Special Stoeger Model); with 9-inch barrel, 35 ounces.

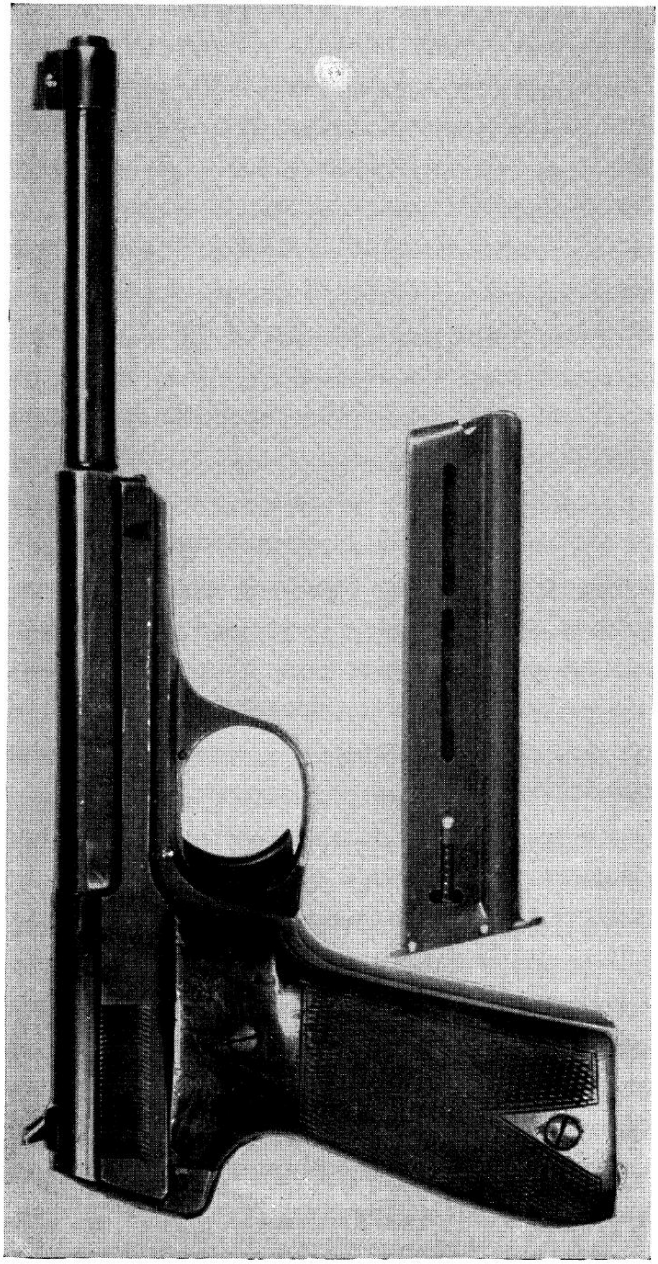
Magazine: Detachable box. Release catch on bottom of butt. 10 rounds (12 rounds in Stoeger Model).

Sights: Rear sights as on most European .22 target pistols, were usually of the fixed type. The front sights were adjustable.

Barrel: Receiver forging forms barrel mount.

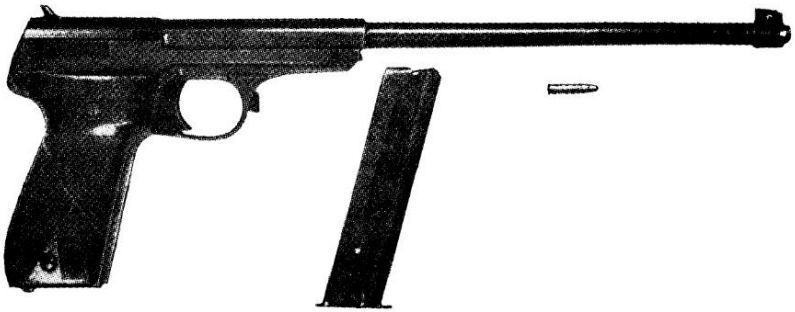
Action: Unlocked blowback.

Firing Mechanism: Striker fired, single-action hammer. The striker and extractor assembly are housed in the breechblock. As slide recoils it pulls the striker pin backward thus compressing the spring mounted around the striker. When the slide shuts, the sear catches and retains the striker.



WALTHER HAMMERLESS TARGET .22 L.R.

A few were made to shoot the .22 Short cartridge which cannot be interchanged with the .22 Long Rifle cartridge in the target automatics.



ANOTHER HAMMERLESS TARGET .22 L.R.
This illustrates efforts to develop a target pistol for the 1932 Olympic shoots; it had a 9-inch barrel and weighed 35 ounces. Note slide lock lever at front of trigger guard.

Trigger: When the trigger is squeezed the sear bar on the right side of the receiver transmits the trigger squeeze pressure to the sear. This releases the striker which now drives forward to contact the cartridge primer.

Disconnector: The slide must be in its foremost position before the sear bar can contact the sear. At this point the bar rises into a slot out in the belly of the slide. The trigger must be released before another shot can be fired.

Recoil Spring: Spring located beneath barrel in receiver channel. Similar to Model 1 recoil spring location.

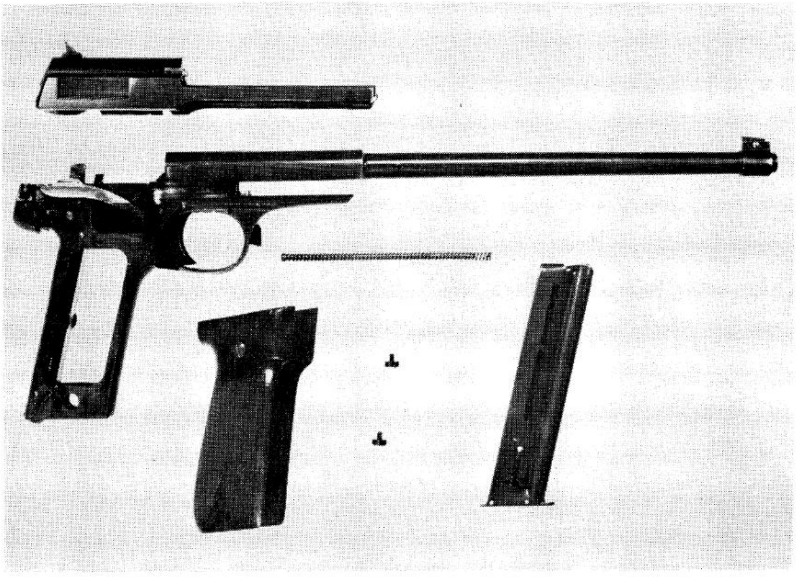
Markings: Left side of receiver: "Automatische Walther Pistole—Cal. .22 Long Rifle." This inscription was followed by Walther banner.

Special Features

The pistol has several ancestors. The unique one-piece pistol stock was inherited from Mauser. The general receiver design and takedown system has a strong family resemblance to Ritter van Mannlicher's earlier pistols. The pistols stocks were made from wood or plastic.

Takedown

Remove the magazine. Maintain pressure on the spring-held slide release catch which projects from front of the trigger guard. Pull slide back in its guides with a lifting motion. When the slide clears receiver guide cuts, lift it up on its rear end and slide



WALTHER HAMMERLESS TARGET .22 L.R. (Continued).

At top are details of slide removal seen from the left side. Details of slide construction, barrel mounting, grip stock, and magazine design are shown below. The recoil spring and guide nest in receiver below barrel mounting. The stock unit is one-piece and may be wood or plastic.

forward over the barrel. Recoil spring and guide will unseat forward out of the receiver below the barrel mount. Remove stock screws and remove stocks. Lockwork is now accessible.

1936 BERLIN OLYMPIA MODEL .22

With the approach of the 1936 summer Olympics, the first to be held in Germany, Fritz Walther was determined to produce an outstanding .22 target pistol so that German shooters could take the gold medals for pistol shooting.

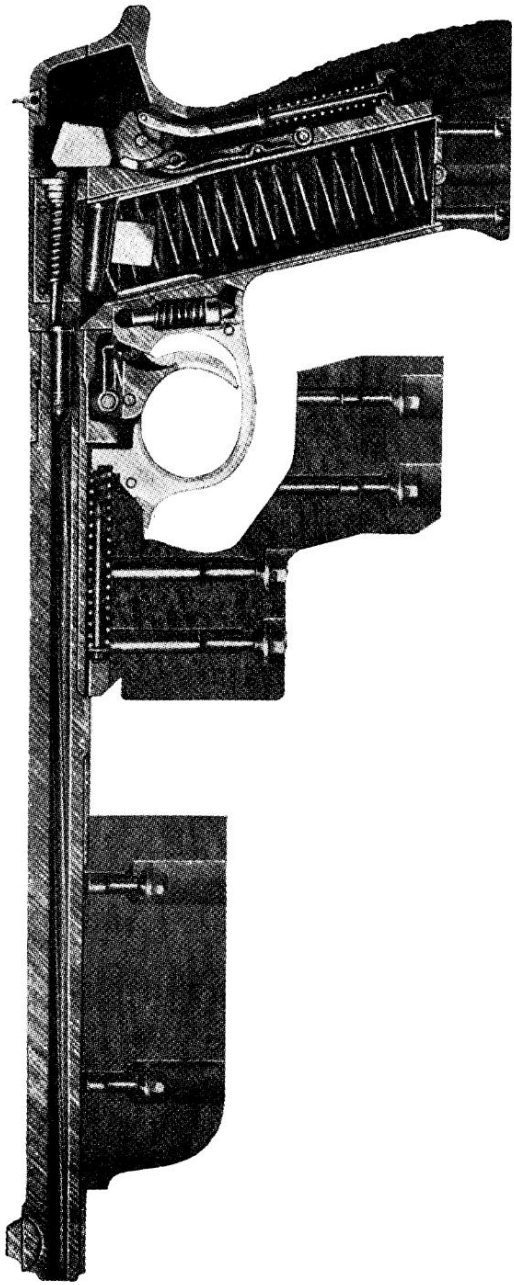
German shooters did just that. They not only took the gold medals but the first five places in events in which Walther's new Olympia pistol was used. Walther had been unhappy with his efforts in designing the Hammerless Target .22 pistol. True, it was as good or better than competitive weapons but Walther

WALTHER OLYMPIA TARGET PISTOL.

The full set of weights is attached and the magazine withdrawn. The key shown is used to fasten the weights at selected positions on the travel tracks on the barrel to provide perfect balance for the individual shooter.

Note that the magazine release on these pistols is a push-button on the side of the receiver. The thumbpiece directly below the magazine release is the manual safety. The left hand stock is specially designed to provide a rest for the thumb of the right hand when shooting.

At one time the property of Colonel Frank Wyman of the staff of the National Rifle Association, it used .22 Long Rifle cartridges as shown, however, the cased set included a specially bored and chambered barrel to take .22 Short ammunition together with a special lightweight duralumin slide to replace the heavier steel slide normally used with the Long Rifle cartridge.



CUTAWAY VIEW, WALTHER OLYMPIA MODEL.

The magazine is provided with a wooden extension on the butt which gives the appearance of being a continuation of the grip and functions in that capacity. Magazine release is a button on the left side of the receiver.

wanted the best. He wanted to improve the firing mechanism so he eliminated the striker and designed a firing pin. Striker-fired weapons are easier and cheaper to design and manufacture but they are not as good as a similar weapon utilizing a firing pin. There is more jar to a striker-fired pistol. The jar can and will cause one or a series of undesired "fliers."

Basic Data, Berlin Olympia .22

Caliber: .22 Long Rifle or .22 Short. Some Olympias, like the one owned by NRA staff member Colonel Frank Wyman, come with a duralumin slide which replaces the heavier steel slide used with .22 Long Rifle cartridges. A special barrel bored and chambered for the .22 Short cartridge was also furnished.

Size: Length: 10.70 inches; height: 4.20 inches; width: 1.90 inches.

Weight (without detachable weights): 31 ounces.

Magazine: Detachable box, push-button release, left side of receiver. 10-rounds (.22 Long Rifle), 6 rounds (.22 Short).

Barrel Length: 7.44 inches.

Sighting Radius: 9.25 inches.

Barrel Grooves: 6.

Rifling: One/17.70 inches.

Action: Unlocked blowback. This is the basic PP action modified for internal hammer system.

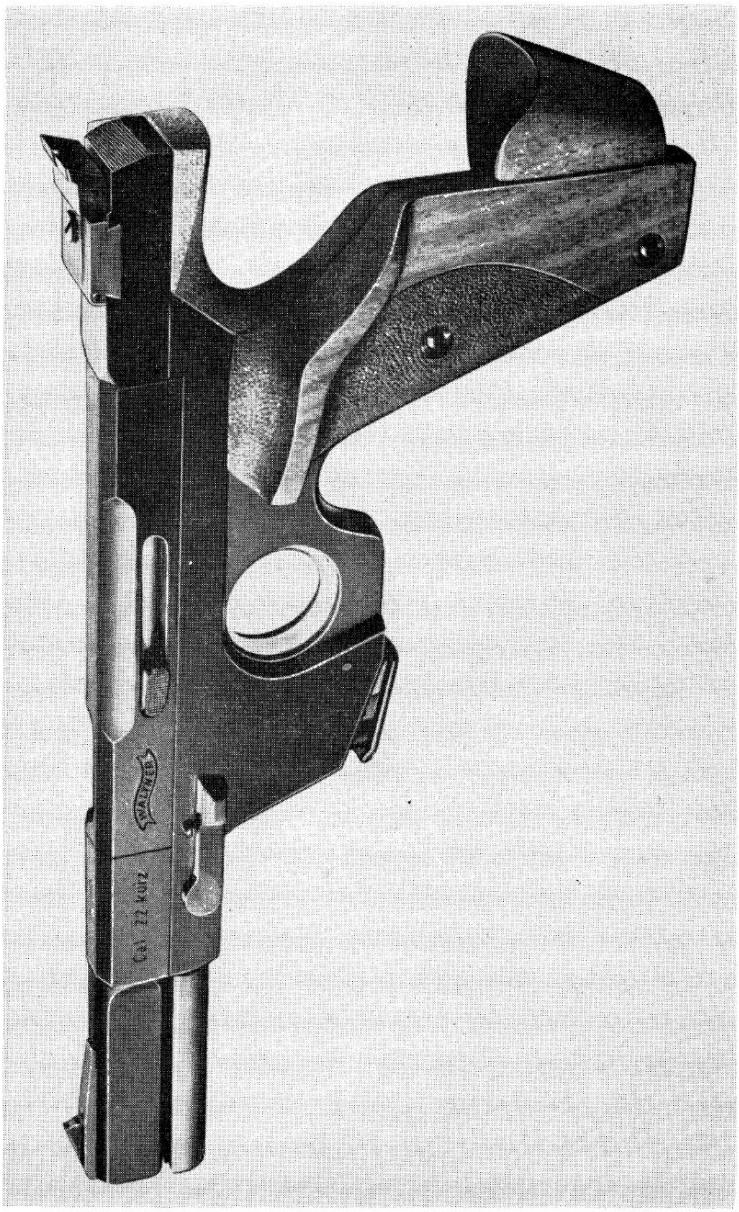
Firing Mechanism: Internal hammer. Flying (independent) firing pin. Single-action trigger.

Weights: Various detachable weights can be attached beneath the barrel and/or under receiver. Weights are adjustable and may be slid along rails and secured in whatever position gives the shooter the balance he feels fits his needs.

Safety: Manual. Thumb lever safety, left side of receiver.

Takedown

The takedown is similar to that of the PP and PPK models. The lower end of the trigger guard is hinged to the receiver. The upper end of the guard projects through a receiver slot into the route of the slide bar. Pull the trigger guard down and the upper end of the guard is removed from the route of the slide. During this operation the guard's lower end compresses in the disengaged position. Pull back and up on the slide. This releases slide from its guides. The slide can now be eased forward over the



FOR COMPARISON, WALTHER'S '62 OLYMPIA .22 SHORT.

barrel muzzle. Remove recoil spring and guide from receiver. Remove the one-piece stock to gain access to lock work. All lock work may be removed without tools. Firing pin and extractor units can now be lifted out of receiver. The barrel is pinned in position and should only be removed by a competent gunsmith.

Olympia Model Variations

1. *Funfkampf Model:* Described above.
2. *Standard Model:* Similar to Funfkampf but not equipped with weights.
3. *Rapid Fire Model:* Same as above except: weight, 27.50 ounces; caliber .22 Short; magazine, 6 shots; one detachable weight, 12.375 ounces.
4. *Model 184J:* Same as Standard Model (see 2 above) except barrel is 4 inches long.
5. *Sport Model:* Length 10.70 inches; barrel length, 7.40 inches; weight, 30.40 ounces; detachable weights vary between 3.25 ounces and 4.75 ounces.

Any of the above models may be found with a lightweight slide and barrel chambered for .22 Short cartridge.

HAMMERLI (SWISS) WALTHER TARGET PISTOLS

The Russians took over the Walther plant from the Americans in June 1945. Fritz Walther, safe in the American Zone, opened negotiations with the several centuries old arms firm of Hammerli in Lenzburg, Switzerland. Hammerli was noted for its free pistols and ultra accurate .22 target rifles. Hammerli agreed to produce Walther's pre-war Olympia Model.

The Walther-Hammerli Olympia .22 target pistols are among the best target pistols made anywhere. The Walther-Hammerli Olympia is as fine a target handgun as the pre-war Walther-made Olympia and possibly better, because of a greater knowledge of advances in gun-making technique.

Hammerli began manufacture in 1945. The first Hammerli serial number was 0-500 and by September 1, 1961 had reached approximately 7,000 in caliber .22 Long Rifle. Several thousand had been manufactured in caliber .22 Short. The .22 Short is the

standard cartridge for rapid-fire target work including the Olympic course.

The Hammerli-made Walther, with certain minor changes in sights and handgrips and changes in the weight and number of adjustable weights, is identical to the pre-war Walther Olympia. The Olympia is made in two basic models, 200 and 203.

Model 200 has standard thumb rest target grips while Model

HAMMERLI-WALTHER MODEL 200.
In 1945 the first of these pistols were manufactured by Hammerli. Their serial numbers started with 0-500.

HAMMERLI-WALTHER AMERICAN MODEL 204.
Another Olympia target version.

203 is the same pistol equipped with an adjustable hand rest grip. Both the 200 and 203 are available in calibers .22 Long Rifle and .22 Short. The adjustable hand rest grips were designed in accordance with UIT regulations. UIT is the organization which establishes international shooting regulations. It is sort of an international NRA. *Union Internationale de Tir*—International Shooting Union.

Hammerli recently introduced the American Model Olympia

HAMMERLI-WALTHER AMERICAN MODEL 205.

A MODEL 205 FOR A CHAMPION.
This one was especially made for Joe Benner, winner of many notable pistol events.

which is available in two models. Model 204 has regular grips like the Model 200, and the Model 205 has the adjustable hand rest grips. The American model is available in caliber .22 Long Rifle only.

The American model incorporates several features which have a double objective: (1) to meet NRA regulations; and (2) to give American shooters such features as they have become accustomed to in the superior grade American target pistols.

American shooters, for instance, prefer micrometer rear sights adjustable for both windage and elevation. American pistol front sights are not usually adjustable. Europeans are accustomed to a front sight adjustable for elevation and a rear sight adjustable for windage. The American model is equipped with a non-adjustable front and micrometer rear adjustable for both elevation and windage. The 33-ounce trigger pull and the 9.435-inches sighting radius both meet NRA rule book specifications. The American model trigger pull of 33 ounces is non-adjustable for weight but the distance of the pull (trigger travel distance) is adjustable.

The American model meets the American range safety requirement that the slide remain open after the magazine has been removed. It also remains open after the last shot has been fired. This slide lock mechanism is incorporated into the American models 204 and 205 but not in Model 200 and 203.

The American model is equipped with three weights to reduce recoil. This provides more time for aiming during the rapid-fire course. The front weight (attached to rail under the barrel) weighs slightly less than 10 ounces. Two weights, 7 ounces and 3 ounces, can be attached to the receiver forward of the trigger guard. The pistol weighs 36 ounces without weights and 57 ounces with weights.

Basic Data, American Model Olympia .22 L.R.

Size: Length: 11.75 inches; height: Model 204, 5.20 inches; Model 205, 6.10 inches; width (grip): Model 204, 1.90 inches; Model 205, 3.75 inches.

Sighting Radius: 9.44 inches.

Weight (without detachable weights): Model 205—35.0 ounces; Model 204—33.0 ounces.

Total Weight: Model 205 about 56 ounces, Model 204 about 54 ounces.

Detachable Weights: Front 8.0 ounces, rear 7.0 ounces, also rear 3.0 ounces.

Grips: Model 204—French walnut and hand-checkered, thumb rest; model 205: adjustable hand rest. All Model 205 rests are custom made to shooter's hand. This increases pistol price to $188 for Model 204 and to $215 for Model 205 (1961 prices). Grips are deeply checkered on back and left side. No checkering on right side. Grips are available for left-hand shooters.

Magazine: Detachable box. Push-button release located on left side of receiver. Box magazine equipped with cartridge follower to facilitate loading. 8 round or 10 rounds.

Safety: Wing safety located on left side of receiver under magazine release button.

Sights: Micrometer rear sight (square notch). Notch width: 0.10. Correction per click: 0.20 inches at 25 yards. Front sight width: 0.125 inches. Patridge type on matted ramp.

Barrel Length: 7.50 inches; barrel height with accessories: 1.50 inches.

Barrel Grooves: 6.

Rifling: One/17.70 inches.

Action: Unlocked blowback.

Firing Mechanism: Swinging concealed hammer, flying (independent) firing pin. Single-action trigger.

Trigger: 33-ounce non-adjustable pull. Trigger travel distance: adjustable. Wide, deep-grooved trigger.

Special Features

Built-in slide stop automatically keeps slide open after last shot is fired. The muzzle brake is readily removed by turning to left with wrench or coin. This permits easy cleaning of muzzle brake.

Many shooters consider this the finest .22 caliber target pistol ever seen. In one function test made by a Walther fan, 1,000 rounds of 13 brands of .22 Long Rifle ammunition were fired without one malfunction. The ammunition included American, Canadian, Swedish, Finnish, German, and French. High-speed, standard velocity, and target grades were used.

This is both a beautifully finished and wonderfully crafted weapon. There is no .22 auto pistol on the market today into

which so much skilled labor is put. The trigger pull is easy. Backlash is absent. Recoil with the recoil reducer attached but with the weights detached, is virtually non-existent.

Technical Data—Hammerli-Walther Rapid-Fire Pistol

	Model 200		Model 203	
	.22 Short	.22 Long Rifle	.22 Short	.22 Long Rifle
Weight (without detachable weights) (Oz.):	29	33	32	34
Front Weights (Oz.):	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50
Interchangeable Supplementary Weight (Oz.):	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Total Weight (Oz.):	39.00	43.00	41.00	44.00
Barrel:				
Length (Inches):	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50
Grooves:	6	6	6	6
Twist (turn: inches):	1:17.70	1:17.70	1:17.70	1:17.70
Height of Barrel (with standard front weight) (Inches):	1.33	1.33	1.33	1.33
Height of Barrel (with supplementary weight) (Inches):	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.40
Sight Radius (Inches):	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
Height of Pistol (Inches):	4.90	4.90	5.90	5.90
Width of Pistol (Inches):	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90
Magazine Capacity (Rounds):	8	8	8	8

Chapter 8

French "Manurhin" Walther Pistols

FRITZ Walther after World War II returned to arms making by managing to retain title to his pre-war patents and by getting other people to pay him for the privilege of manufacturing and selling his pistols. This arrangement brought in sufficient funds to re-establish his factory. Walther commenced with the manufacture of business machines and in 1950 he was permitted to manufacture air rifles and pistols. He was then given permission to manufacture .22 caliber rifles. Meanwhile he negotiated with the Swiss firm Hammerli, long known for its first-rate free pistols, which agreed to pay Walther for the privilege of manufacturing the famed pre-war .22 caliber Olympia target model.

Walther entered into an agreement with *Manufacture de Machines du Haut-Rhin* at Mulhouse in France, better known by its trade name "Manurhin." This company agreed to manufacture the Walther PP and PPK in calibers .32 ACP, and .380 ACP. A .22 Long Rifle pistol was also made. This pistol has a PP receiver, firing mechanism and, a barrel extension. It was, and still is, available in several barrel lengths. It is made with the standard PP double-action or in single-action.

These pistols went into production about 1955. The Thalson Import Company of San Francisco imported the first Walthers off the Manurhin assembly line. The Thalson-imported PP's commenced with the serial number 100,001 and the first PPK had serial number 500,001.

The Thalson-imported PP's and PPK's were marked on the left side:

MANUFACTURE DE MACHINES

DU HAUT-RHIN

The trade name WALTHER-MANURHIN was laterally between the above phrase and the two lines LIC EXCL. while the caliber and model designation appeared beneath the latter markings. The two-piece plastic grip plates were marked MANURHIN while on the bottom of the butt plate was the raised inscription LIC WALTHER PP (or PPK).

The Russians, who put Walther out of the military arms business, were responsible for the resumption by Walther in his own plant of P-38 production in caliber 9mm Parabellum (Luger). Germany was permitted to re-arm and the *Bundeswehr* of West Germany adopted the P-38 as its official side arm.

Walther's new plant at Ulm on the Danube is but fifty miles from the Manurhin plant in France. Walther is currently making P-38's and is selling Manurhin-made PPK's and PP's which no longer carry the Manurhin trademark but are marked on the left of the slide with the model designation, caliber, and the

WALTHER MODEL PPK .22 LONG RIFLE.
Walther's latest markings appear on this Manurhin-made PPK.

phrase CARL WALTHER WAFFENFABRIK, Ulm/D. and the famous Walther banner.

Recent Manurhin Walthers seem every bit as good as the prewar Walthers. It is understood that Fritz Walther exercises quality control over the Manurhin products. Walther hopes to resume PP and PPK production soon in his own plant.

BASIC DATA, MANURHIN PP WALTHER

.22 Long Rifle (5.6mm)

Size: Length: 6.75 inches; height: 4.25 inches; height (with extension magazine): 5.0 inches; width (slide): 0.875 inches; width (grip): 1.25 inches.

Weight (steel receiver): 23.25 ounces.

Magazine: Detachable box, 10 rounds.

Barrel Length: 3.87 inches.

Other details are identical with the first-rate commercial Walthers of the 1930's.

.32 ACP (7.65mm)

Size: Length: 6.75 inches; height: 4.25 inches; height with 10-shot extension magazine: 5 inches; width (slide) 0.875 inches; width (grip): 1.25 inches.

Weight (steel receiver): 24.25 ounces.

Magazine: Detachable box, 8 rounds.

Barrel Length: 3.87 inches.

.380 ACP (9mm Browning Short)

Size: Length: 6.75 inches; height: 4.25 inches; height (with 9-shot extension magazine): 5 inches; width (slide): 0.875 inches; width (grip): 1.25 inches.

Weight (steel receiver): 24.25 ounces.

Magazine: Detachable box, 7 rounds.

Barrel Length: 3.87 inches.

The .22 Long Rifle Model is not equipped with signal pin. The postwar PP is available with a steel receiver only. It has two-piece plastic grips.

BASIC DATA, MANURHIN PPK WALTHER

.22 Long Rifle (5.6mm)

Size: Length: 6.125 inches; height: 4.0 inches; height with 10-round extension magazine: 4.75 inches; width (slide): 0.875 inches; width (grip): 1.0 inches.

Weight (steel receiver): 20 ounces.

Weight ("L" Model with duralumin receiver): 16 ounces.
Magazine: Detachable box, 9 rounds.
Barrel Length: 3.25 inches.

In both the PP and PPK .22 L.R. models, the capacity of both the regular magazine (flush with butt base) and the extension magazine is identical.

.32 ACP (7.65mm Browning)

Size: Length: 6.125 inches; height: 4.0 inches; height (with 9-shot extension magazine): 4.75 inches; width (slide): 0.875 inches; width (grip): 1.0 inches.
Weight (steel receiver): 22 ounces.
Weight ("L" Model with duralumin receiver): 17.25 ounces.
Magazine: Detachable box, 7 rounds.
Barrel Length: 3.25 inches.

.380 ACP (9mm Browning Short)

Size: Length: 6.115 inches; height: 4.0 inches; height with 8-shot extension magazine: 4.75 inches; width (slide): 0.875 inches; width (grip): 1.0 inches.
Weight (with steel receiver only): 22 ounces.
Magazine: Detachable box, 6 rounds.

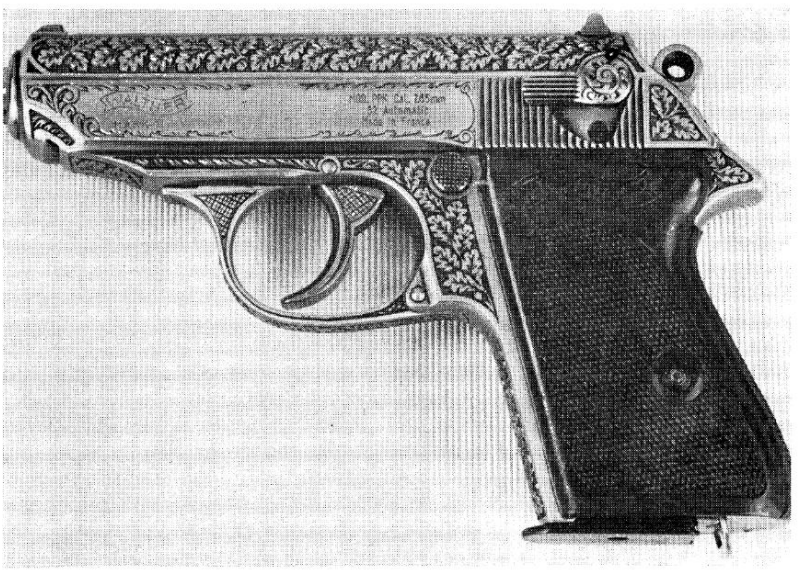
LUCITE MANURHIN-MADE MODEL PP.

International Arms Company ("Interarmco"), 10 Prince Street, Alexandria, Virginia, began to import Manurhin-made Walther PP's and PPK's shortly after post-war production began.

Interarmco's Manurhin Walthers were especially marked for that firm. They are designated as the MARK II; The name Manurhin does not appear. A typical MARK II carries the following markings: "WALTHER" (inside banner), MARK II—MOD PPK Cal. 7.65mm—.32 Automatic—Made in France.

The two-piece plastic grips each carry the Walther banner on the upper portion of the grip. The serial number is stamped on the right-hand side of the receiver in front of the forward edge of the plastic grip. The serial number reads from the top down; a number as high as 507145 has already been passed in manufacture.

The "L" Model PPK's have a blued steel slide and blued trigger while the frame is a black matte finish. Both the PP and PPK are equipped with the best non-adjustable sights the writer has ever seen on pocket automatic pistols. The front sight is a



INTERARMCO IMPORTS MANURHIN-MADE MARK II PPK.

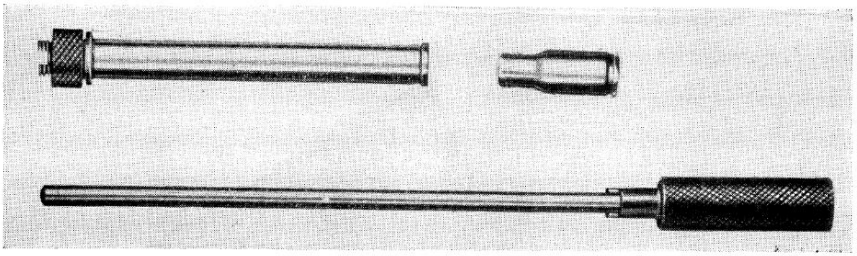
GOLD PLATED, ENGRAVED PP .22 L.R.
One of several Mark II PP's available through Interarmco.

white ivory bead and the square notch rear sight is outlined in bright red. The wide trigger is grooved. When the manual safety lever is in the "Up" or "Fire" position a large red dot is exposed.

PP and PPK Accessories

Three types of magazines are regularly available for the PP and PPK: (1) The standard magazine which fits flush with the bottom of the grip and which carries the standard number of rounds; (2) a standard capacity magazine with a triangular shaped finger rest—a pre-war design; and (3) an extension magazine which carries two rounds above standard capacity. This extension magazine serves a dual purpose since it creates a bigger and longer grip and also provides extra rounds.

American PP and PPK Walther owners, if they know about them, would enjoy one of the 4mm caliber adapters, which converts a .32 ACP pocket pistol into a parlor plinking pistol. Two types of conversion (or adapter) kits are available.



SUB-CALIBER PRACTICE ACCESSORIES.

For indoor practice work steel cases which will work through the magazines of the .32 ACP PP and PPK models are available.

The slide is removed and the special 4mm barrel inserted in the standard barrel through the breech end. The front end of this barrel is threaded and a nut is screwed on to hold the inner barrel securely. Special 4mm cartridges are inserted in the heads of the hollow steel cases and the cases then placed in the regular magazine exactly as standard cartridges are loaded.

The slide must be drawn back by hand for each shot since the 4mm cartridges are not powerful enough to blow the slide back. Empty 4mm cartridge cases are punched out of the steel carrying cases.

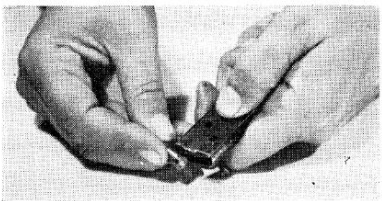
Both kits contain an adapter barrel and steel cartridge cases which act as holders for the .20 caliber (4mm) loads. A 4mm cartridge consists of a cartridge case, primer, and tiny pellet. The primer contains the sole propellant. One kit contains a simple but efficient loading tool. The 4mm *Zimmerstutzen* type ammunition can be secured from A. F. Stoeger. The 4mm case fires a pellet weighing only 7 grains. The pellets are accurate up to 20 to 25 feet and make very little noise.

German Army black leather holsters with an extra magazine pocket are available through Walther importers. Many men prefer an open top Myres or Lawrence holster with a safety strap. Presentation cases for fancy grade Walthers are another accessory —not essential—but a fitting accompaniment to gold-plated and engraved pistols.

Walthers, as before the war, may be obtained in blued, nickel, silver, or gold-plated finishes. Oak engraved models are furnished in silver and gold-plated versions.

The 1961 *Shooter's Bible* (Stoeger's catalog) listed Walthers for the first time since the beginning of World War II. Both PP and PPK models were included.

(1) *Loading:* First apply the thumb safety. This measure must be adopted in any instance of handling either model PP or PPK. Press the magazine catch button with the right thumb. The magazine is pushed out of the pistol by spring pressure.

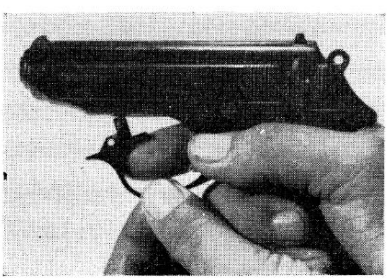


(2) *Filling the Magazine:* Hold the magazine with the left hand and push the cartridges one by one, base first, under the magazine lips by depressing the feeder platform carefully with the cartridge rim. To empty the magazine, push the cartridges forward and remove them. Any forceful jamming in or ripping out will damage the magazine and lead to functional disorders.

(3) *Introducing the First Cartridge:* The thumb safety is "On." Insert a full magazine while holding the pistol with the right hand. Grip the slide with the left hand at the ribbed end, pull fully back, then let go. The first cartridge has thus been fed into the chamber.

The hammer is not cocked, however; so long as the thumb safety on the PP or PPK is "On" the hammer cannot be cocked as in either single-action or double-action shooting.

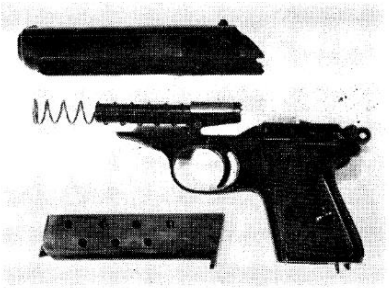
(4) *When Last Round Fired:* When the last round in the magazine has been fired, the slide will stay open. If shooting is to be continued, remove the empty magazine and introduce the next full magazine. Pull the slide back very slightly, then let it move forward. The first cartridge will thus be fed into the chamber. The hammer, however, in such cases will remain uncocked. If shooting is not to be continued, remove the magazine, push the safety lever downward, pull the slide back, then let go. The hammer will drop forward and come to rest on the safety arbor.



(5) *Dismantling:* Apply the thumb safety, remove the magazine. Hold the pistol with the right hand and pull the trigger guard downward with the left, while the right index finger pushes the trigger guard to the left and causes it to rest lightly on the underside of the forward end of the frame. Hold the trigger guard in this position with the index finger of the right hand. Now pull the slide fully back, raise it clear of the frame, and let it glide forward and off the barrel.

(6) *Cleaning and Oiling:* The pistol now having been partly stripped and separated into its three main units, it may be readily cleaned. It is advisable to remove the recoil spring from the barrel. When reassembling the pistol, this spring must be placed on the barrel with the smaller coils first, so that the wider end of the recoil spring coincides with the muzzle.

A few drops of good, acid-free oil should then be applied to various parts, and the bore wiped dry again. Any further dismantling should be accomplished only by a skilled gunsmith.



(7) *Assembling:* To re-assemble the pistol, hold the grip (frame) unit with the right hand, pull the trigger guard downward and push the latter to the left with the right index finger to place it in a position against the underside of the forward end of the frame. Now bring the slide obliquely down over the muzzle, set it fully down on the frame and retract it to its rear limit, then let the slide move forward to its normal closed position. *See that the thumb safety is applied* while this operation is being carried out. The slide is now once again in its original place. Pull the trigger guard slightly downward with the left hand and allow it to return to its normal position.

THE .22 PP SPORT PISTOL

Walther, in 1961, made a .22 Long Rifle and .22 Short pistol based on the Model PP. Two barrel lengths are made and the pistol can be had with either a single or double-action firing mechanism. The PP Sport (double-action) or PP Sport-C (single-action) are made by Manurhin in Mulhouse, France. These pistols, as with the PP and PPK, for several years carried either a "MADE IN FRANCE" or "MANURHIN" marking. In 1961 the French-made Walthers carried the CARL WALTHER SPORTSWAFFENFABRIK and ULM a/d Donau marking. Fritz Walther says he plans to eventually produce the PP, PPK, and PP Sport models in his Ulm establishment. The French Walthers are made to strict Walther specifications and undergo a rigid examination by Walther inspectors. No difference can be detected between the finish and/or craftsmanship of pre-war Walthers made by Walther in Zella-Mehlis and those made to Walther specifications in France.

PP Sport (.22 Long Rifle) Data

Size: Length with 8.40-inch barrel, 11.20 inches; 6-inch barrel, 9.20 inches; height (with standard 10 round magazine) 5.0 inches; width (slide) 0.875 inches; width (grip) 1.34 inches.

Weight: With 8.40-inch barrel, 26 ounces; with 6-inch barrel, 25 ounces. PP Sport models are made with steel frame only.

Magazine: Detachable box, push-button release, 10 rounds.

Barrel Length: 8.40 inches; 6.0 inches.

PP Sport (.22 Short) Data

Size: Length with 8.25-inch barrel, 11.05 inches; 6-inch barrel, 9.20 inches.

Height: 5.375 inches; width (slide): 0.875 inches; width (grip): 1.34 inches.

Weight: With 8.25-inch barrel, 25.80 ounces; with 6-inch barrel, 25 ounces.

Magazine: Detachable box, push-button release, 7 rounds.

Barrel Length: 8.25 inches and 6 inches.

Action: Unlocked blowback.

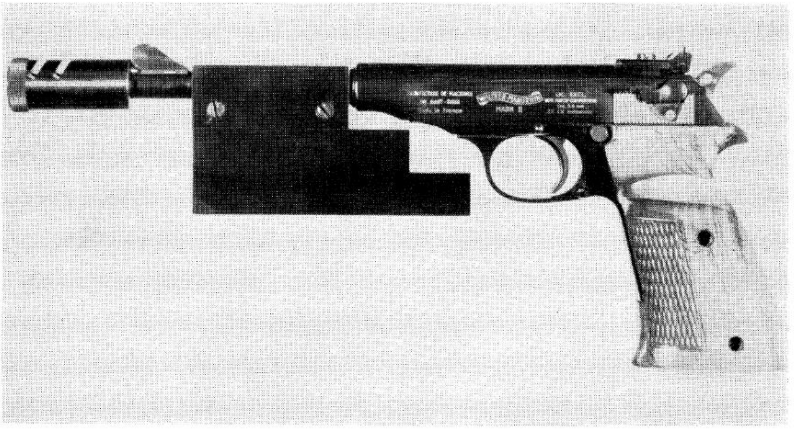
Firing Mechanism: External hammer (spur rather than rounded as on PP and PPK model). Flying (independent) firing pin. Double-action trigger.

Note: MANURHIN markings only.

Special Features

General information as for PP and PPK. The Sport and Sport C models, like the PPK .22 L.R. and PP .22 L.R. Models, are not equipped with signal pin (visible loading indicator). The Sport C Model is equipped with single-action trigger. The trigger pull of this S.A. model is about 2.5 pounds. Detachable weights are available for the 8.25 and 8.40-inch barrel models. A muzzle recoil reducer is also manufactured to fit these long barrel models.

The standard MANURHIN marked models were equipped with plastic stocks in which the toe of the butt curved forward. The grips of this model extended below the base of the butt for nearly one inch to accommodate the extension magazine. The Walther models, with an extension magazine, have the extension fitted directly to the magazine.

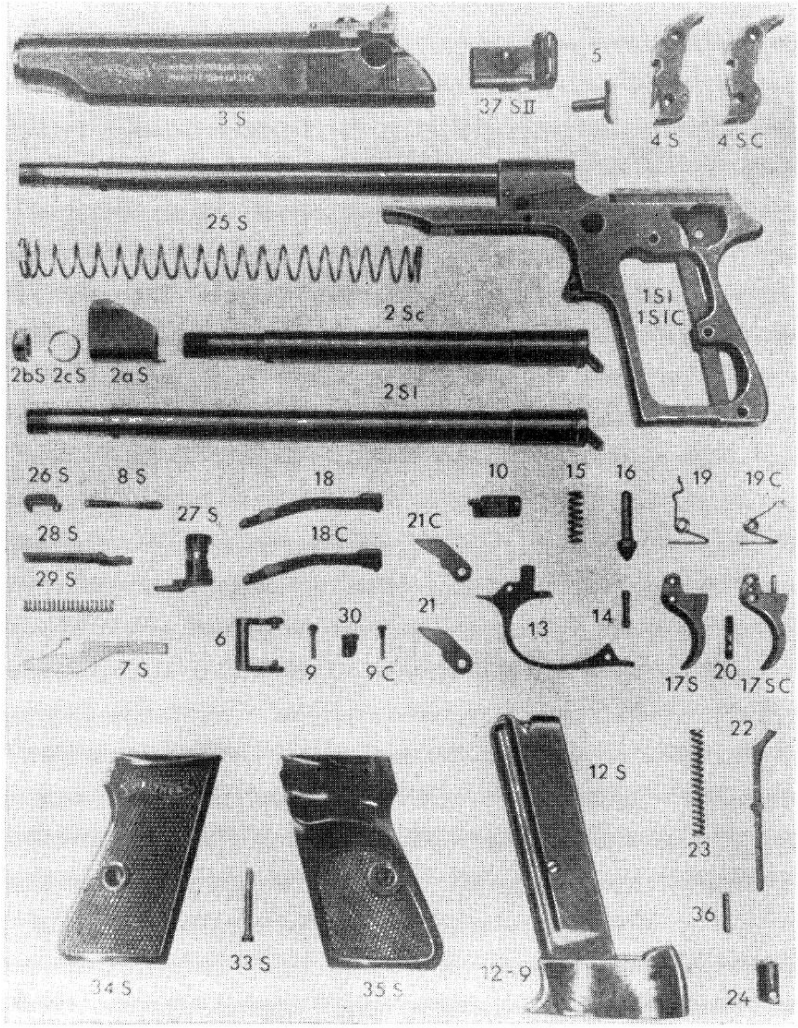


MODEL PP SPORT TARGET PISTOL

Imported by Thalson, this Manurhin-made PP Sport has a barrel length of 8.4 nches, muzzle brake, detachable weights, and target stocks.

MAY BE USED FOR TARGET WORK, PP SPORT C MODEL.

Note convenient cocking spur on hammer of this .22 L.R. pistol.



PARTS LIST, MODEL PP SPORT.

PART	NUMBER
Frame with 206mm barrel	1SI
Frame with 155mm barrel	1SIC
Barrel, 206mm	2SI
Barrel, 155mm	2SC
Front sight	2aS
Nut to front sight	2bS
Locking ring to front sight	2cS
Slide	3S
Hammer, complete	4S
Hammer, single-action only	4SC
Hammer axle pin	5
Cocking piece (sear)	6
Ejector, with spring	7S
Extractor piece with spring	8S
Hammer arrester spring, with bush	9
Magazine catch and spring	10
Magazine with large grip extension	12S
Trigger guard	13
Trigger guard hinge pin	14
Trigger guard spring	15
Guide pin to trigger guard spring	16
Trigger	17S

PART	NUMBER
Trigger, single-action only	17SC
Trigger bar	18
Trigger bar, single-action only	18C
Trigger spring	19
Trigger spring, single-action only	19C
Trigger axle pin	20
Unlocking lever (release lever)	21
Release lever, single-action only	21C
Hammer striker shank	22
Hammer spring	23
Hammer spring counter-bearing stop	24
Recoil spring (slide return spring)	25S
Extractor	26S
Safety lever and arbor	27S
Firing pin	28S
Firing pin spring	29S
Hammer locking piece	30
Screw to grip plate	33S
Grip plate, right	34S
Grip plate, left	35S
Pin to hammer spring stop, part #24	36
Adjustable rear sight	37SII

Chapter 9

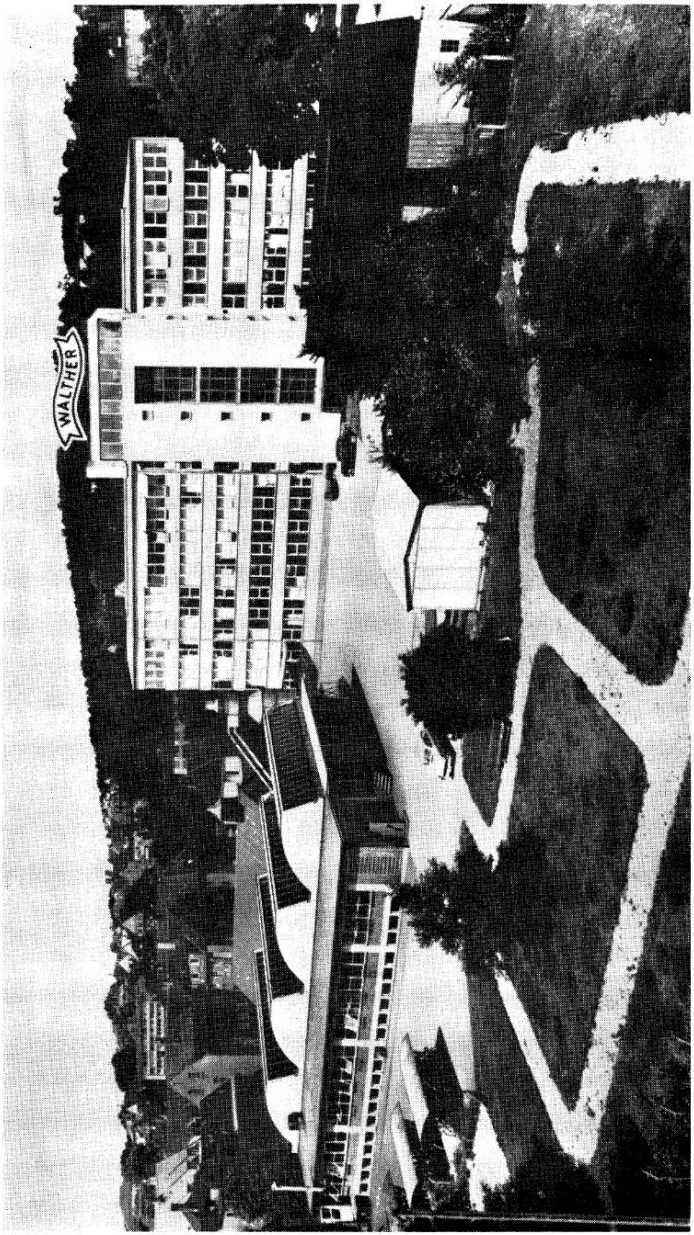
Other Walther Rifles and Pistols

SHORTLY after Fritz Walther fled the Russian occupation of Thuringia in 1946, he went to a tiny village in Wuertemberg where "on a borrowed drawing board in the home of the local cobbler" plans were drawn up for the manufacture of Walther calculating machines, a product for which Walther had been world famous in pre-World War II days.

The first post-war Walther factory, located in abandoned barracks, produced calculating machines. A small factory was soon built in Niederstotzingen. This was soon followed by a second plant in Gerstetten for Walther adding machines. Another plant was constructed in Konigsbronn in 1957. Carl Walther's son Georg has been primarily responsible for the design and construction of Walther business machines, while Eric supervised Walther's world-wide sales.

About 1950, Fritz Walther whose first and greatest love was firearms, finally secured permission from Occupation authorities to manufacture an air rifle of his own design. The new air rifle found an immediate market in Germany and to a more limited extent abroad. Export sales were limited because Walther with very limited production facilities—his first postwar firearms plant was in abandoned cavalry stables in Ulm—could not produce enough arms for the home market.

Dollars, Swiss francs and other stable currencies flowed into Walther's coffers as a result of his agreement with Hammerli in Switzerland and Manurhin in France to produce Walthers under license. The threat of the Russians and the re-establishment of a German Army brought large orders for the P-38. Walther moved his plant from the stables to a modern plant.



FRITZ WALTHER'S POST-WAR PLANT AT ULM-ON-THE-DANUBE.

It is now being expanded to eight stories to accommodate machinery for production of P-38's for the West German Army, and to fill commercial orders for other Walther pistols.

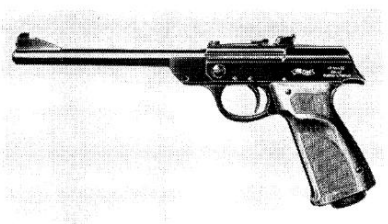
Fritz Walther's current air pistols are made in the LP *(Luft Pistole* for air pistol) series. The LP Model 52 and LP Model 53 are among the finest and most accurate air pistols.

Basic Data, Air Pistol, Model LP 53

Caliber: 4.5mm (.177).
Size: Length: 12.2 inches; height: 5.91 inches.
Weight: 40.6 ounces.
Barrel: Forged steel.
Sights: Micrometer rear sight with interchangeable leaves. Two extra front sights and two rear sights are supplied with the pistol.
Trigger: Adjusted to take first and second pressure pulls.

Operation

Cocking and Loading: Hold the pistol in the right hand. Affix the wooden cocking-grip to the muzzle of the barrel. With the left hand press the barrel firmly downwards at the same time holding the right hand firm, thus breaking the action gently until the click is heard which indicates that the action is fully opened. The 4.5mm Diabolo air gun pellet should then be inserted into the breech. Make certain that the solid head of



WALTHER LP MODEL 52 AND EARLIER MODEL 53 AIR PISTOLS*.

Except for markings behind the Walther banner on the left side of the receiver, photos disclose no difference between this model and the LP Model 53 at right.

Action of the Model 53 is open at the fullest point of the cocking stroke. This pistol may be used as a trainer in conjunction with the .22 Olympia. The wooden cocking block is slipped over the muzzle to protect the front sight and the shooter's hand when cocking.

* Extensive information on Walther and other air guns is contained in *Gas, Air & Spring Guns of the World,* The Stackpole Company, Harrisburg, Pa.

the pellet is pointing towards the muzzle. The trigger can only be pulled after the barrel has been returned to its normal position and the action of the pistol closed. When this has been done remove the wooden cocking grip accessory. The pistol is now cocked and ready to be fired. Always keep a loaded pistol pointing towards the target.

Sight Adjustment (Rear Sight): Every 4.5mm air pistol has been tested and the sights adjusted to hit the target accurately at six yards. The factory testing card for each pistol is enclosed with the pistol when it is shipped. The rear sight may be further adjusted to suit the user.

To adjust the sights, proceed as follows: Press the rear sight base down slightly to allow light turning of the adjusting screw. Note markings for adjustment on this screw. If, when firing, it is found that the pellets are striking the target too high, turn the screw lightly to the *right* in a clockwise direction. If the pellets are striking too low, turn the screw gently to the *left.* Should the pellets strike the target too far to the right you should turn the adjusting screw on the side of the rear sight to the *right* or clockwise. When it is found that the pellets are striking the target too far to the left, turn the side screw to the *left.* Every mark indicated on the rear sight of the pistol represents an adjustment of 3mm at 6 to 8 yards. The figures at the base of the elevation adjustment screw serve as an aid to correct setting of the sights to suit the vision of the person using the pistol and *not* as an indication of the distance to the target.

Changing the Sights: To remove the front sight, loosen the screw on the base and the sight can be easily taken out. Insert new front sight and again tighten the screw. Before attempting to change the rear sight leaves, carefully remove the sight base. To do this you should carefully move it from side to side and at the same time gently pull it backwards toward you. When it has been removed pull up the rear sight leaf which is held in place by a small ball. To insert the new rear sight leaf, carry out the same operation in reverse, i.e., press the leaf down over

the ball and replace the sight base by a side to side movement at the same time applying slight pressure from behind. On no account must force be used.

Air pistol shooting is good fun in itself. Not many Americans can afford an indoor pistol range for .22's, but any home with a decent-sized living room offers the possibility of a range for an air pistol. You can always lengthen such a range by shooting through one or more open doorways into another room but complete safety conditions must first be established. Incidentally, the European-made pistol pellets of 4.5mm (.177) caliber seem to yield more precision than those manufactured here.

Alarm (Blank) Pistol, Model 1

The .22 caliber (blank cartridge only) is a combination pistol to be used for starting sporting events, training animals, possibly for self-defense (as a method of sounding an alarm), sound effects for theatre and radio, and to be used with special signal rockets for rescue work. The pistol is available in either blue or chromed finish.

Operation

Magazine Loading: The magazine is always securely locked to prevent loss while carrying. To release magazine, move lever to "E" (ejection) and pull trigger until magazine comes out of rear of slide. Place cartridges in proper slots. The loaded magazine will not spill cartridges due to a special Walther "cartridge lock." This allows users to carry a spare magazine for immediate use.

Magazine Removal: Move the lever to "E" and pull the trigger until the magazine comes out of the back. The pistol will not fire even when the trigger is pulled, due to special Walther safety engineering.

Safety: To safely lock the pistol, move the lever to "E"; to prepare for firing, push the safety forward to "F" (fire position).

Shooting: To shoot, press the trigger. After each shot the magazine is automatically carried backwards. After the sixth

TYPICAL GERMAN ADVERTISEMENT, MODEL 1 UP BLANK PISTOL.

shot the rear hinged plate opens, allowing the magazine to protrude.

Ejection: To eject empty shells, use the built-in ejector rod located on the rear end of the slide. Push out the empty shells with this hinged rod, then return it to its concealed position.

Cleaning: The pistol should be cleaned immediately after use. The magazine and barrel should be wiped with a good gun oil to prevent fouling.

Signal Rockets: The signal rockets used for rescue work with this pistol all have the same shape. They are inserted into the barrel from the muzzle with the twisted paper end of the rocket pointed out. Explosion of the blank cartridge causes ignition of the rocket. In normal, proper use these rockets are completely harmless. Fire them straight up in the air.

WALTHER SPORTING AND TARGET RIFLES

Walther in 1962 is manufacturing three target rifles in calibers .22 L.R., two models of a .22 caliber sporting rifle, two models of a varmint rifle in caliber .22 Hornet, two models of a modified Model 98 Mauser rifle in calibers .30-06, .270 Winchester, 7 x 57mm Mauser, 8 x 57mm Mauser, 7 x 64mm Mauser, and others.

The P-38 is manufactured at the Ulm plant, but the PP and PPK models are still made in France under Walther's trademark and Ulm dateline. Hammerli continues to manufacture the .22 Olympia models and Walther has announced for future production an advanced design target pistol for caliber .22 Short in which the magazine is forward of the trigger guard. A modernized Model 8 caliber .25 ACP pocket pistol is in the works. The West German Army is trying out a Walther-designed submachine gun. Air pistols and air rifles are being made.

Relatively few Walther rifles were imported in the United States prior to World War II. Stoeger Catalog No. 23 offered a "Walther .22 Caliber Automatic Target Rifle."

This rifle could be used as a single-shot, repeating rifle, or

PRE-WORLD WAR II WALTHER .22 AUTOMATIC TARGET RIFLE.

automatic rifle as desired. When using the rifle as an automatic or as a repeater, no part of the breechblock moved toward the rear and the shooter could not be injured by a defective cartridge. The breechblock could be lifted from the receiver from the rear thereby allowing easy access to all parts for cleaning purposes.

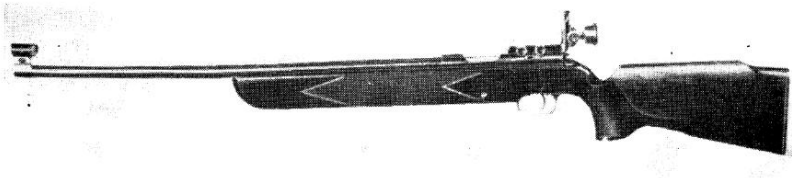
The regular magazine holds five cartridges, but extra magazines of 9-shot capacity were available at added cost. The bolthead had a folding safety similar to that used on many high-power rifles. Though the trigger offered a uniform easy pull, it could be regulated harder or easier. Loading or unloading could be accomplished with the safety on.

Basic Data, Walther .22 Automatic Target Rifle

Size: Length: 43 inches; barrel length: 24.5 inches.
Weight: About 7 pounds.
Stock: Walnut, checkered pistol grip, finger groove forearm.
Operation: The rifle was apparently converted to semi-automatic fire by raising a handle.
Magazine: 5-round, detachable box magazine located forward by trigger guard. A 9-round box magazine was also available.

The high cost ($66.00) of this rifle may very well have been the prime reason for its failure to sell in the United States. Sixty-six dollars for a .22 rifle was a great deal of money in the early 1930's. The Winchester standard Model 52 target rifle complete with Lyman 48-J receiver sight then only cost about $62.52.

Walther's extras were offered to include cheekpiece at $4.00, Mannlicher-type stock at $15.00, horn fore-end and engraving $16.00, and a rear peepsight at $8.50. A Zeiss 2½X scope complete with mount was $70.00.



THE WALTHER .22 L.R. MATCHMASTER.

Action is the same as the Model KKM but the stocks differ and the Matchmaster has a shorter barrel.

Basic Data, Matchmaster .22 L. R.

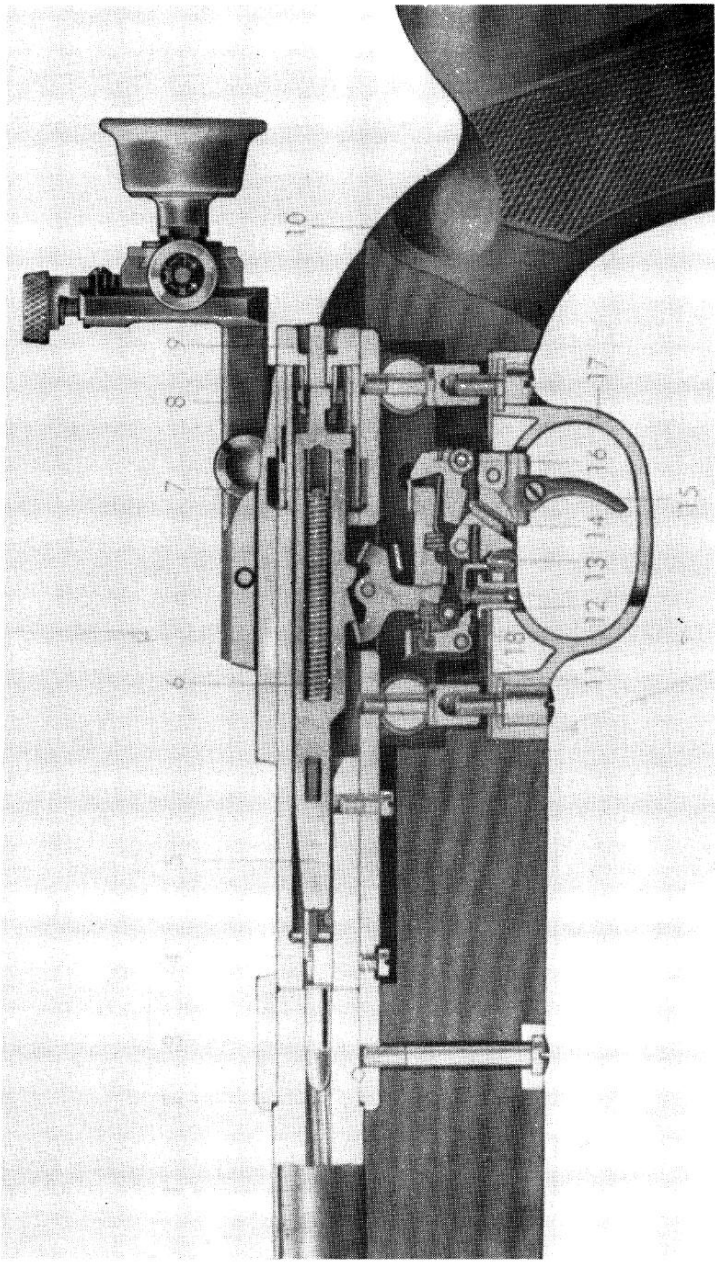
Size: Length: 43.7 inches; barrel length: 25.6 inches.
Weight: 10 pounds.
Action: Bolt action with twin locking lugs.
Trigger: Adjustable match trigger.
Safety: Wing safety.
Stock: Olympia-style walnut with cheekpiece and Monte Carlo comb. The full pistol grip is finely checkered; forearm is full with fine checkering. Stock has a rubber butt plate and an adjustable front swivel.
Sights: Standard equipment includes a post front sight with adjustable and interchangeable apertures like the Lyman 77. The rear sight is an adjustable micrometer type with fine adjustments for 50, 100, and 150 yards.

This rifle is a Walther target version comparable to the Winchester Model 52 or the Remington Model 40. It is one of the world's finest small-bore target rifles.

Basic Data, Walther Model KKM-Match .22 L. R.

Size: Length: 45.6 inches; barrel length: 27.9 inches.
Weight: 14 pounds; available with heavier-weight barrels.
Action: Bolt action with twin locking lugs.
Trigger: Adjustable match trigger.
Safety: Wing safety.
Stock: This model has a special thumbhole stock of walnut. It has an adjustable aluminum butt plate and an adjustable palm rest. The front sling swivel is adjustable.
Sights: The front sight is a post with protector. There are eight interchangeable aperture and post inserts; the distance between sights is 35.40 inches.

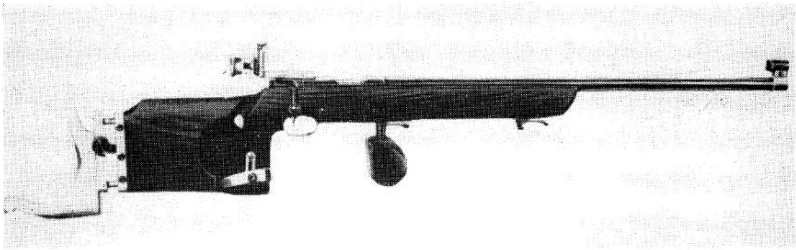
This rifle is one of the world's finest free-match rifles. The only comparable American rifle is the Remington Model 40X.



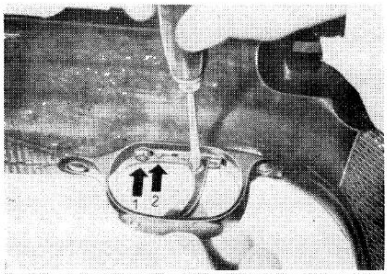
SECTIONAL VIEW, WALTHER TARGET RIFLE ACTION.

Key to Parts:

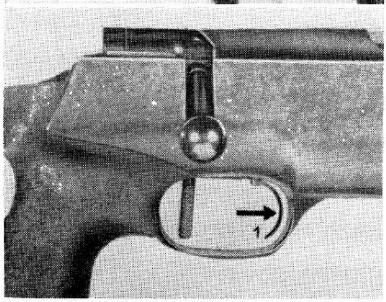
1 Barrel
2 Lands and grooves
3 Receiver
4 Breechblock
5 Striker
6 Striker spring
7 Spring bolt
8 Rear sight unit
9 Breechblock end
10 Stock
11 Sear arm
12 Screw for regulating slack
13 Screw for regulating slackway
14 Sear nose
15 Adjustable trigger
16 Tumbler
17 Trigger guard
18 Sear spring



WALTHER MODEL KKM MATCH TARGET RIFLE, CAL. .22 L.R.

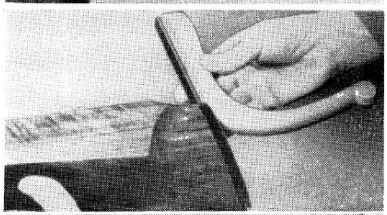


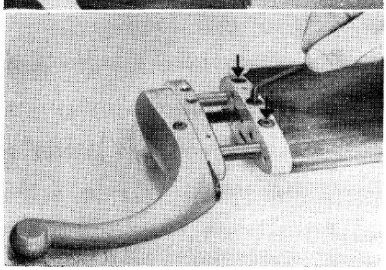
To shift the trigger forward or backward or to swing it out to the right, loosen the screw, set the trigger to the desired position, and tighten the screw again. Screw # 1 regulates the pre-release slack (heavier or lighter), and screw # 2 to lengthen or shorten the slack. Counterclockwise turning makes the trigger slack lighter and/or longer, clockwise turning causes the match trigger to become heavier and/or shorter.



The new match trigger design incorporating a pre-set trigger was developed in order to meet the demands of marksmen. The trigger mechanism is cocked by engaging the front trigger and released by the rear trigger (instant release without any slack). It is therefore not a combination trigger device.

Once the set-trigger (1) has been applied, it is essential either to apply the safety catch or else open the breech very carefully if a shot is not to be duly fired.



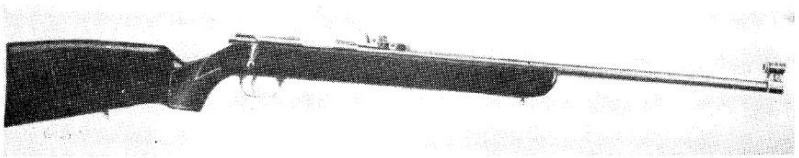


To fit the hook plate, loosen the Allen screw and push the attachment bar down the dovetail slot, then tighten up again. Fitting or removing the hook plate should always be done carefully. It is advisable to remove the hook plate before transporting the rifle.

Adjusting The Hook Plate: When adjusting the hook plate on the Model KKM Match, note the following directions: To alter the length of the stock, first loosen the two locking screws (indicated by arrows), then turn the center Allen screw until the desired length of stock has been reached. Tighten the two locking screws again. The toothed adjustment bar in the middle is provided with scale markings to facilitate correct setting for each respective shooting position. Vertical adjustment of the hook plate involving other screws is also possible.

Basic Data, Walther Model KKS-V (Sporter) .22 L. R.

Size: Length: 43.7 inches; barrel length: 25.6 inches.
Weight: 8 pounds.
Action: Bolt action with twin locking lugs same as on the two preceding .22's.
Trigger: Adjustable match trigger.
Safety: Wing.

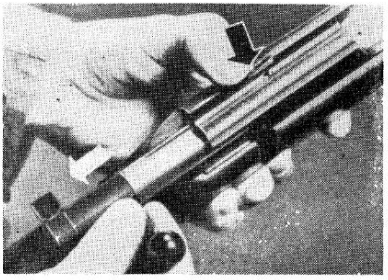


WALTHER SMALL-BORE MODEL KKS-V.
This rifle utilizes the same action as the KKM Match rifle but has a lighter barrel and weighs but eight pounds in comparison with the 14 pounds and 10 pounds of the KKM and Matchmaster respectively.

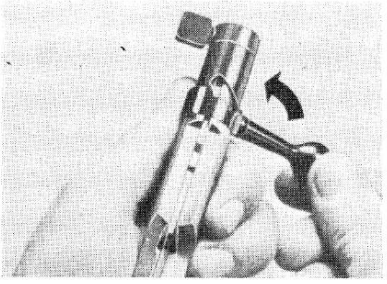
This rifle is the Walther version of the now discontinued Winchester Model 52 Sporter. If the stock lines were altered to conform with American ideas it might become a fairly popular .22 sporter in this country. On the other hand Winchester discontinued the fine Model 52 Sporter because there didn't seem to be sufficient demand for such an expensive but first-rate rifle.

Walther manufactures four medium weight small-bore sporters. These all utilize the same action. One model, the KKJ, is equipped with either a standard, sporter, or Mannlicher type stock. Model KKJ-E, available with either stock type, utilizes the same action but is a single-shot rifle. These Walther rifles, now that Winchester has discontinued manufacture of its excellent Model 52 Sporter, are probably the finest small sporting rifles made anywhere.

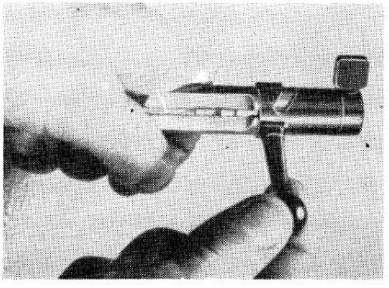
To disassemble the Walther smallbore rifle bolt, unlock the bolt, thereby cocking the action. Press down bolt catch (see black arrow) on the left hand side of the receiver and withdraw the bolt.



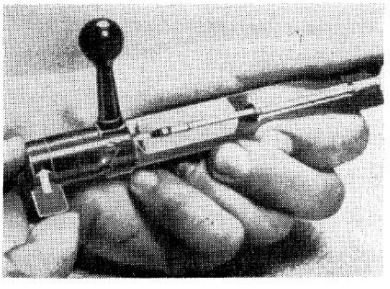
Uncock the bolt. Grip bolt firmly with left hand and turn bolt handle with right hand up and over to the limit of its travel (in the direction indicated by the curved arrow).

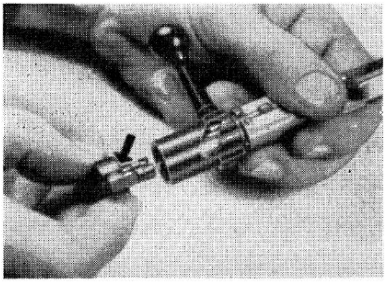


The bolt action is now uncocked. Next, observe the position of the bolt handle. The part nearest the joint is in an oblique position next to the firing pin slot.

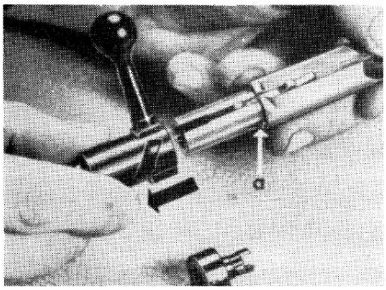


Turn the safety lever fully over to the left (see white arrow).

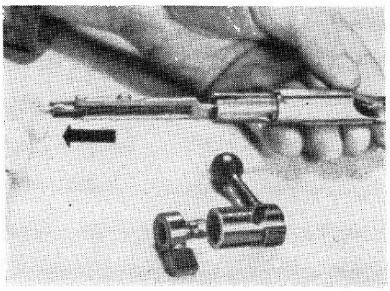




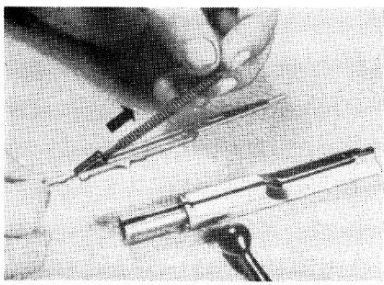
Withdraw the bolt lock unit with the safety lever completely from the rear end of the bolt. Be careful that the spring pin seated in the locking unit opposite lever does not drop out (indicated by arrow). The bolt should be held in a horizontal position in this step.



Now withdraw the bolt handle unit. Be sure that spring pin "a" (indicated by white arrow) does not drop out of the bolt unit. Hold the latter in a horizontal position.

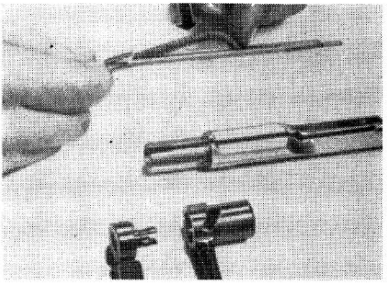


Withdraw the firing pin together with the firing pin spring (see arrow).

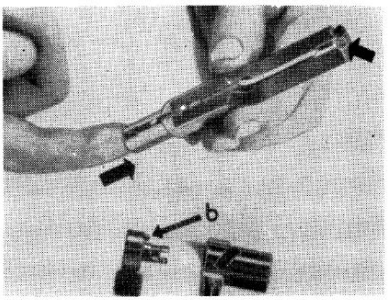


Compress the firing pin spring and remove forward, together with forked spring pin. The bolt unit is now completely dismantled.

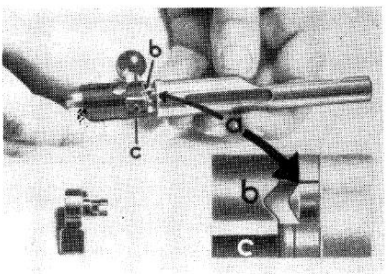
To assemble the bolt begin by inserting the firing pin spring. Push the upper end down and engage in the projection (triangular point) in the end of the slot in the firing pin.



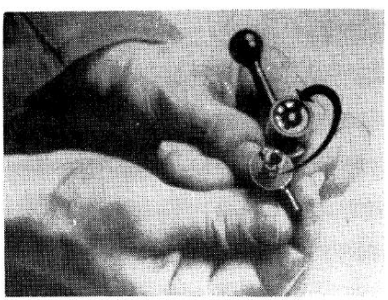
Insert firing pin into the bolt unit and press forward until the point of the firing pin appears at the breech face (see arrow). See that the small spring pin "b" in the bolt locking unit is not dislodged or lost.

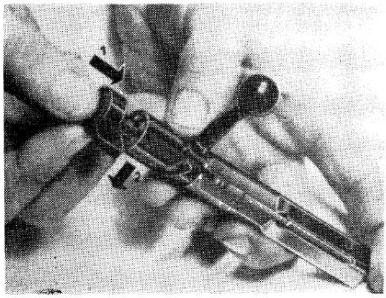


Mount the bolt handle unit. In doing so, care should be exercised to assure that the spring bolt "a" comes to rest exactly in the recess "b" in the bolt handle unit on the shoulder block "c." The same components are shown close up in the same photo.

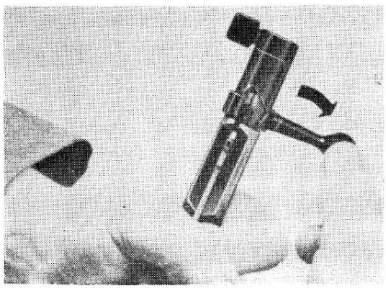


This shows the bolt unit with firing pin and mounted bolt handle unit as well as bolt locking unit with safety lever. When mounting the locking unit, be sure that the wider lug on the locking unit fits into the wider recess in the bolt unit.





Bolt handle must now be pushed forward and downward, and the locking unit with the safety lever mounted to the bolt handle unit; it is essential that these components fit firmly (see arrow 1). Turn simultaneously with bolt unit to the right and to the limit of movement as shown by arrow 2. Be careful that small spring pins do not drop out of their respective recesses.



Hold the assembled bolt unit firmly in left hand and turn the bolt handle over to the right with the other hand. The bolt can now be inserted into the receiver. Last step is to depress the bolt catch on the left side of the receiver and slide the bolt assembly into place.

Basic Data, Model KKJ Series

Calibers: KKJ and KKJ-E .22 L.R., KKJ-H .22 Hornet, KKJ-HV 5.6 x 35R *Vierling,* a cartridge almost identical to the .22 Hornet. Both models for the .22 L.R. and the .22 Hornet (and 5.6 x 35R) are called in German *"Kleinkaliber"* (small bore) or *Schonzeitbuechsen* (closed season) rifles.

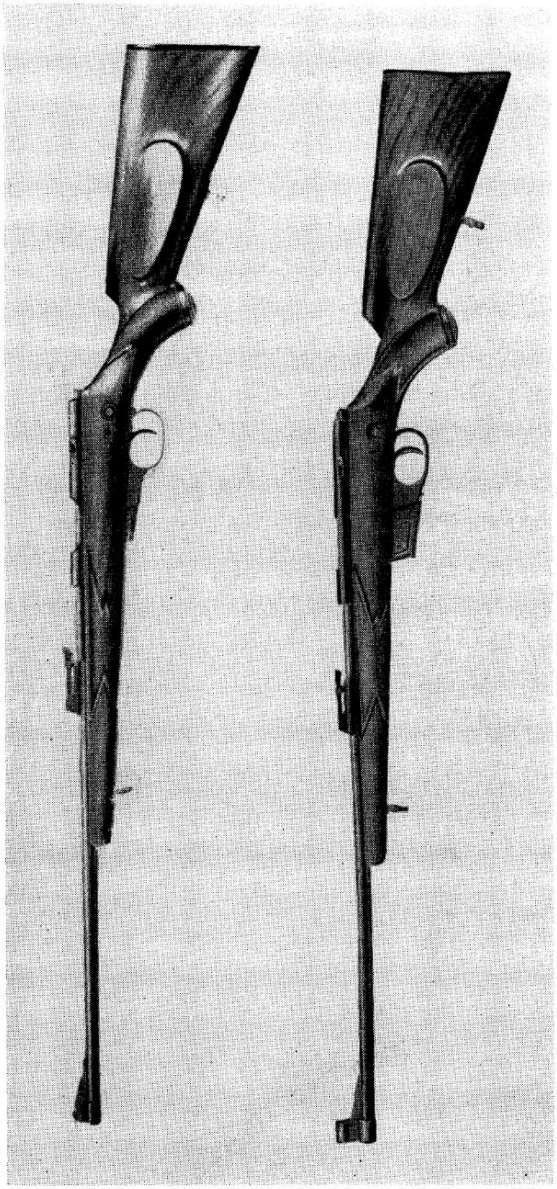
Size: Barrel length ranges from 22.4 inches in the KKJ to 24 inches in the KKJ-H. Overall lengths will be between 41 and 43 inches.

Weights: The KKJ is 6.5 pounds and the KKJ-H weighs about 7 pounds.

Action: Twin locking lugs; equipped with Walther Special Safety so that rifle can only be loaded or unloaded when the safety is applied. Model KKJ-E is a single-shot.

Stocks: The stocks are dark walnut with well checkered pistol grips and forearms. The pistol grips are equipped with caps, and stocks have cheekpieces. The Mannlicher type stock is unusual in that it is divided in two pieces. The division is made where the regular forearm ends.

Safety: Walther safety; rifle can only be loaded or unloaded when safety is applied.



Above: WALTHER MODEL KKJ .22 L.R. SPORTER.
Below: WALTHER MODEL KKJ-H (HORNET) SPORTER.

Magazine Capacity: A regular five round detachable box magazine is supplied. A special eight round magazine is additionally available for the Model KKJ.

Sights: Open rear sight with folding slide adjustable for windage and elevation (25-125 yards). The front sight is silver bead.

Basic Data, Walther Big Bore Rifles

Model B

Calibers: 6.5 x 57mm, 7 x 57mm, 7 x 64mm, 8 x 57js, 9.3 x 62mm, .30-06 Springfield and .270 Winchester.

Weight: About 7.5 pounds.

Barrel Length: 24 inches.

Overall Length: 45 inches.

Action: Model 98 Mauser.

Stock: Dark walnut with checkered pistol grip and fore-end. Pistol grip is capped.

Magazine: 5 rounds integral magazine with floor plate latch.

Sights: Silver bead front sight on ramp; open rear sight.

Model B (Mannlicher Stock)

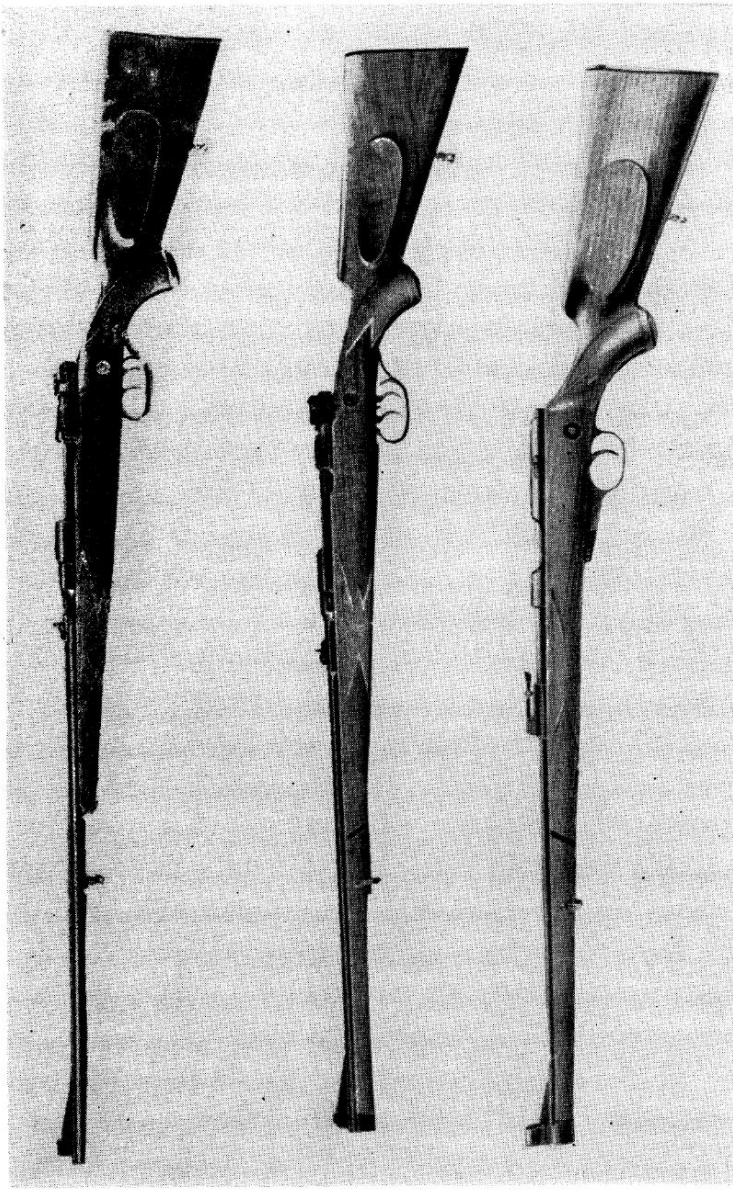
This model is available only in caliber 6.5 x 57mm.

Model A

This model is identical to Model B except it is equipped with set triggers.

Rifle Notes

There is nothing especially unusual about Walther's rifle design but Walther rifles are exceptionally well made of first-rate materials. Walther purchases the Model 98 action but does stocking and barrel work in his own plant at Ulm.



Top: WALTHER LARGE BORE STALKING RIFLE. *Center:* MODEL A—MANNLICHER STOCK. *Bottom:* MODEL KKJ—MANNLICHER STOCK.

Chapter 10

Walther Pistol Ammunition Notes

THE Walthers, unlike John Moses Browning, have not designed any new cartridges. Walther centerfire pistols have been commercially produced for calibers .25 ACP, .32 ACP, .380 ACP and 9mm Parabellum. Three of these calibers were either designed by or for John Browning and the 9mm Parabellum was for a pistol designed by German-born naturalized American citizen, Hugo Borchardt.

6.35mm Browning (.25 ACP) Data

Case:

Length: 0.602-0.622 inches.

Rim Diameter: 0.297-0.302 inches.

Neck Diameter: 0.275 0 0.279 inches.

Head Diameter: 0.274-0.279 inches.

Material: Brass.

Bullet:

Case Mouth Diameter: 0.244-0.252 inches.

Weights: 48-50 grain metal-case. 50 grain soft-point not now made in U.S.

Primer: Boxer (U.S. and Canadian), Small Pistol (0.175 inch) and 2-hole Berdan.

U.S. Data (current production): Winchester-Western and Remington-Peters make rounds with identical exterior ballistic specifications; muzzle velocity (50 grain metal-case bullet) 810 fps; muzzle energy 73 ft. lbs. (2-inch barrel).

Some Equivalent Names:

6.35mm Browning.

6.35mm *Fur Selbstlade Pistole* (Self Loading Pistol).

6.35 ACP.

DWM Code: 508.

A. G. Roth Code: G.R. 757.

6.35mm Browning—History, .25 ACP

This cartridge was either designed by or for John Browning's "Baby Browning" vest-pocket pistol which was first manufac-

tured by FN in late 1905 or 1906. Colt commenced American manufacture of the same pistol under the name Colt Vest-Pocket Pistol in 1908. Colt manufactured about 500,000 between 1908-1941 while FN, which still makes the "Baby Browning," has turned out about 1,000,000.

About 200 arms makers have manufactured about 150 different models for this cartridge. Never have so many made so much from such a pistol! The .22 Long Rifle Hollow-point is a more effective defense cartridge.

Walther manufactured this caliber in Models: 1-2-5-7-8-9-PP, PPK, and the new TP.

7.65mm Browning (.32 ACP) Data

Case:
Length: 0.561-0.573 inches.
Neck Diameter: 0.278-0.291 inches.
Rim Diameter: 0.334-0.346 inches.
Head Diameter: 0.294-0.295 inches.
Materials: Brass (Steel not made in U.S.).
Bullet:
Case Mouth Diameter: 0.303-0.311.
Type: Metal case. (Soft-point not now made in U.S.)
Primer: Boxer (U.S., Canada) Small Pistol (0.175) 2-hole Berdan.
Data (U.S. rounds): Winchester-Western and Remington-Peters manufacture a .32 ACP round with identical ballistic specifications of a 71 grain metal case bullet with a muzzle velocity of 960 fps and muzzle energy of 145 fp. (Data from 4-inch barrel.) There has been little change in this cartridge's characteristics over the years.

The .32 ACP is referred to by several names or code designations. They include:

DWN Code: 479A.
G. Roth Code: G.R. 619.
.30 Browning (British).
.32 ACP (Automatic Colt Pistol)
.32 Colt Automatic
.32 Colt Auto
.32 SAP (Savage Automatic Pistol)
.32 Automatic Pistol
.32 Auto Pistol
.32 Auto
.32-7.65mm
7.65mm ACP
7.65mm Browning
7.65mm Mauser
7.65mm Sauer
7.65mm Beretta

7.65mm Browning—History, .32 ACP

This is another cartridge either designed by or for John Browning. The Mormon gun genius designed his first autoloading pistol (1895) in caliber .38 Automatic but the first Browning pistol to be made outside the U.S. was Model 1900 Caliber .32 Automatic, first manufactured by FN in 1899. Colt produced the same model with some improvements in 1903. This was the first U.S. produced .32 Automatic pistol.

The popularity of this caliber has been enormous. In 1910, the year Walther produced his first .32 Auto pistol, FN celebrated the manufacture of its 1,000,000th Model 1900 .32 Auto pistol. Colt made nearly 1,000,000 between 1903 and 1941. Just about every firm in the world which has produced auto pistols has made at least one caliber .32 ACP auto pistol. Walther auto pistols chambered for the .32 ACP include Model 3-4-PP-PPK, and the special KPK.

9mm Browning Short (.380 ACP) Data

Case:

Length: 0.670-0.682 inches.

Rim Diameter: 0.355-0.372 inches.

Neck Diameter: 0.369-0.372 inches.

Head Diameter: 0.355-0.372 inches.

Materials: Brass. (Steel not made in U.S.)

Bullet:

Case Mouth Diameter: 0.347-0.354 inches.

Type: Metal case. (Soft-point no longer made in U.S.)

Weights: 95 grain metal case (present U.S. standard). Both metal case and soft-point bullets have been made in weights ranging from 92 to 96 grains. All bullet types examined in research have had round nose. Winchester-Western and Remington-Peters make a cartridge with these identical ballistic specifications: muzzle velocity 955 fps; muzzle energy 192 fp (data from 3.75 inch barrel).

Primer: Boxer (American and Canadian ammunition). Small Pistol (0.175 inch) and 2-hole Berdan.

The 9mm Browning Short has numerous other names including:

DWM Code: 540
.380 Automatic Pistol
.380 Auto Pistol
.380 Colt Auto Pistol
.380 Colt Auto
.380 Colt Automatic Pistol Hammerless (cases marked C.A.P.H.)
.380 Webley Auto (not to be confused with .380 S&W which is British nomenclature for .38 S&W cartridge)
9mm Kurz (Short)
9mm Short
9mm Corto (Short)
9mm Short Browning

9mm Browning Short—History, .380 ACP

This is still another cartridge either designed by or for John Browning. It was introduced in the United States about 1908 for Browning's 1903 pistol which had formerly been available in .32 ACP only. The first European pistol chambered for this cartridge was the Browning Model 1910, an improved version of the Model 1903 Colt Auto Pistol.

The Walther PP and PPK pistols are chambered for this cartridge.

9mm Parabellum (Luger)

This cartridge, 58 years old in 1962, has been and still is the most widely used military pistol and submachinegun cartridge in the world. Now that most major NATO powers except the United States have adopted the 1935 FN Browning, and the West German *Bundeswehr* is using the P-38, 9mm production will continue for many years though it may never again reach the production heights of World War II.

The first known pistol to be chambered for the 9mm Parabellum (Luger) cartridge was the Model 1902 Luger. No more than 1,000 of these pistols were made. 9mm Parabellum production was given considerable impetus when the *Kaiserliche Kriegsmarine* (Imperial Navy) adopted the Model 1904 Luger.

The German Army adopted the Luger in 9mm Parabellum caliber in 1908. Other nations soon adopted the caliber for their service pistols including Italians in 1910 (Glisenti M-1910).

Walther's first 9mm Parabellum pistol was Model 6, introduced as a substitute standard in 1915. Other Walther 9mm Parabellum pistols include the MP (limited production), HP, and P-38.

Between November, 1918 and the 1930's, Germany produced no legal 9mm ammunition or weapons. When Hitler scrapped the Locarno Pact and the Versailles Treaty, open production of 9mm weapons and ammunition was resumed.

The greatest single impetus to popularity and production of the 9mm Parabellum was the development of the submachinegun or machine pistol. The submachineguns were developed and used in limited quantity during World War I. They were the Italian Villa Perosa Model 1915, Italian Beretta Model 1918 and the German Bergmann.

During most of the 1920's the world scene was dominated by the .45 ACP, American designed Thompson Models 1921, 1922, and 1928. Experimental Thompsons were made in 9mm Parabellum caliber. The Thompson was a favorite of gangsters in Chicago and Marines in Nicaragua. World War II saw submachineguns used by all countries, and except for the United States, just about every submachinegun used the 9mm Parabellum including those of the British. Some countries, of course, used the .45 ACP Thompson which they received through the Lend Lease program. This included the British, French, and Russians.

Our Canadian neighbor replaced the .455 Webley, Colt, and Smith & Wesson sixguns with the 1935 FN Browning 9mm Parabellum. No 9mm pistol, except experimental models, was built in the United States until after World War II when Smith and Wesson, hoping to cash in on the popularity of the double-action P-38, brought out a 9mm Parabellum auto pistol. It is also available in a single-action model.

The Armed Forces have experimented with various calibers in-

cluding the 9mm Parabellum but to date, the 50 year old Model 1911 and 1911al Colt .45 ACP remains our standard Army service pistol and cartridge. The Air Force, however, has taken a step backwards and adopted the less powerful .38 Special sixgun cartridge.

Specifications for current 9mm Parabellum cartridges and general details on a few of the several hundred 9mm loads which have been made during the past 57 years are as below.

Case:

Length: 0.741-0.760 inches.
Rim Diameter: 0.387-0.394 inches.
Neck Diameter: 0.373-0.382 inches.
Head Diameter: 0.384-0.394 inches.

Bullet:

Case Mouth Diameter: 0.349-0.355 inches.
Weights and Types: 89-137 grains. Two American loadings are currently available:
Winchester-Western: 115 grain metal-case bullet with a muzzle velocity of 1,140 fps and muzzle energy of 332 ft. lbs. (data from 4-inch barrel).
Remington-Peters: 124 grain metal-case bullet with a muzzle velocity of 1,120 and muzzle energy of 345 ft. lbs. (data from 4-inch barrel).
Peters loads from 1930's: Both loadings use a round-nose bullet. Peters offered two bullet types, 125 grain truncated cone, metal-case—and a hollow-point. Given muzzle velocity for both loads: 1,040 fps; muzzle energy (both loads): 300 ft. lbs.

Case Materials:

Brass (All U.S. cases examined have been brass).
Steel (copper-plated).
Steel, blackened (indicated for carbine or machine pistol, but can be used in good condition in pistols utilizing locked breech action.

Primer: Boxer (U.S. and Canadian) Small Pistol 0.175, Large Pistol 0.210; Berdan 1 and 2-hole types.

The 9mm Parabellum, despite its widespread use or perhaps even because of it, has relatively few designated names other than 9mm Parabellum or the American term, 9mm Luger.

DWM Code: 480 C.

DWM Code: 480 D. (Blackened case for use in Luger carbine and Luger Pistols with 12 or 16-inch barrel. Greater push is needed to

operate longer and heavier barrels; can be used in pistols in good condition.)

DWM Code: 487 C. (Designed to be used in Mauser Military Pistol Models 1912 and 1914 which were especially chambered for this cartridge on orders from the Russians and Belgians. This cartridge, which had heavier than normal loading to operate the heavy slide of the Mauser pistol, can be used in any good condition Walther P-38.)

9mm Beretta.

9mm Glisenti.

9mm *Pistolenpatrone* 400 (b): This ammunition was made in Belgium in government ammunitions plants for the Germans during WWII. (*Note:* This round should not be confused with 9mm *Pistolenpatrone* 400 (h) which was 9mm Browning Short ammo made in captured Dutch plants for Germany during World War II.)

9mm Suomi (Finnish): For Finnish-designed, Swedish-manufactured Lahti pistols or any other 9mm Parabellum auto pistol.

9mm Swedish (Model 39): The Model 39 is the Walther P-38 which was adopted by Sweden in 1939.

There are two schools of thought on the use of 9mm carbine or machine pistol ammunition in 9mm Lugers or Walthers. One school maintains that carbine and machine pistol ammunition was so marked because it readily identified the rounds for uses of these weapons. Carbine and machine pistol operators, when seeking ammunition for their weapons, would automatically disregard ammunition not designated as machine pistol or carbine ammo.

The other school alleges that carbine ammo was so marked so that it would not be used in pistols like the P-38, Luger, or others. Those of the latter school are invited to try to operate a submachine-pistol successfully at full auto-fire with the standard pistol ammunition. It can only be done with those weapons specifically designed for such ammunition.

No 9mm Parabellum ammunition should be used in the Walther Model 6 or Model MP. These are unlocked blowback pistols.

Each wartime P-38 should be checked by a competent gunsmith before owners use loads developing above-normal pressures. This applies to any weapon produced in wartime.

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